Germany

C 172 Cattle

176 Commercial Relations

C 173 Ports.

C 174 Cattle

C 184 Cotton Seed Oil

C 185 Commercial Relations

C 186 Pork

197 Congratulations to Pres't.

C 202 Military Service

C 204 Monetary.

C 205 "

C 210 "

C 211 "

No 1948.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 11 1894
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 1st, 1894.

— Mr. Charles Denby Jr. —

to the

— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —

Enclosing account for telegrams from August 13 to August 25th, 1894.

No 1948. Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 1st, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a statement of the amount for official telegrams of this Legation from August 13th @ August 25th 1894, amounting to $318.33/, against which I have drawn my draft on you to reimburse myself.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure: Statement as above.

1/1948.

T.M.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
File
NOV 1 1894

Secretary of State.
OCT 31 1894

No. 1949

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 1st, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
OCT 11 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The alleged Japanese spies at Shanghai.

Synopsis

They have been delivered to the Chinese authorities. Reasons which induced the Legation and the Consul General to temporarily withhold them.

No. 1949.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 1, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm your telegram of the 31st. ultimo as follows:

"Your telegram this date "received. My instruction "29th clear".

Immediately upon receipt of this telegram, I wired the Consul General to deliver the alleged Japanese spies, held by

by him, to the Taotai, and I notified the Yamên that this had been done. I have now the honor to submit some remarks in explanation of my action and of the action of the Consul General in this matter.

To the first demand of the Yamên, made on the 16th ultimo, that these Japanese be given up, I replied that I would be compelled to await the Consul General's report. This I telegraphed him to forward. Before Mr. Jernigan had reported, the Yamên referred the case to you, and to their subsequent demands I replied that they had

had put the matter in your hands and that I could now only act as ordered by you. It would have been manifestly improper for me to order Mr. Jernigan to give up these Japanese without hearing from him the reasons which had induced him to detain them. Subsequently, when the case had been appealed to you, it would have been equally improper to give them up without your order.

Mr. Jernigan has not acted in this matter under a misapprehension as to his authority. Neither he nor I imagine that lending good

offices

offices inverts Japanese in China with extraterritoriality, nor that the legation or the consuls have the right to shield Japanese who commit crimes. No attempt has been made to harbor Japanese in other parts of China, though many occasions for doing so have presented themselves. The case of the two Japanese arrested at Shanghai is an exceptional one. On two grounds I felt justified in asking your instructions.

In the first place, the <u>exclusive</u> jurisdiction of the Chinese authorities over subjects of a power at war with China

resident

resident in the foreign
settlements at Shanghai,
is sufficiently in doubt to
justify the foreign authorities
in demanding proof of guilt,
and stipulating for a fair
trial, before giving up such
subjects when accused. The
custom in time of peace is
for foreigners residing at
Shanghai, subjects of a power
having no treaty with China
and hence not enjoying the
privileges of extraterritoriality,
to be tried, when arrested
for crime, by the "mixed court,"
that is by a Chinese magistrate
sitting with a foreign "assessor".
On the French Concession, this
assessor

assessor is always a French consular officer. On the Anglo-American Settlement, an English assessor sits with the Chinese official on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; an American assessor on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and a German assessor on Saturdays. Before this tribunal are brought all Chinese charged with crimes or misdemeanors in the settlement, and all foreigners so charged not protected by treaty. They are heard and their punishment determined by the Chinese and foreign officials acting together.

The foreigners at Shanghai wish to establish the principle

that

that this procedure shall be followed in time of war, against subjects of a belligerent power. They are strongly averse to establishing the precedent that China shall have <u>exclusive</u> jurisdiction over such persons. This aversion is based on a desire to preserve the neutrality of the settlements and on an abhorrence of the cruel barbarities of Chinese criminal procedure. They justly argue that, if Japanese are allowed to be taken from the concession and dealt with at the will of China, then, in case of war between the United States and China, Americans may be similarly

treated

treated. So far as any precedent already exists, it is adverse to such right of China. During the Franco-Chinese war, Russia used her good offices for the protection of the French in China and French subjects arested at Shanghai were actually brought before the Russian consul for hearing. China made no effort to interfere with them in any way.

The second reason for which deliberation and caution seemed justified is based upon humanity. The two Japanese seized at Shanghai are school boys. For three years they have resided in the

French

French concession peacefully and openly. They give the name of the school, the teacher, and the place of their residence, with a minuteness which raises doubts in their favor. They are probably innocent. The Chinese authorities assert that their wearing the Chinese costume is a proof of guilt. To this it is only necessary to reply that they had been wearing it for years. Japanese clad as Chinese have been living all over the empire; I have met them in Peking. Though contrary to treaty no objection has been made thereto.

To give up these boys unconditionally

See former despatch

unconditionally is generally believed to be to give them up to death. The viceroy at Nanking has, I am informed, already demanded of the taotai of Shanghai why the heads of the two spies have not been sent to him. They are judged and condemned in advance. The Governor of Formosa has posted a proclamation offering prizes for Japanese heads. In a country where such a thing is possible, it is needless to inquire what chance a Japanese accused as a spy would have for his life.

It was never my intention to ultimately refuse to give

up

up these Japanese. I only wished your authorization to stipulate for their examination in the presence of the Consul General, and an assurance that torture or excessive punishment should not be inflicted on them. To demand from China these concessions from her legal rights seemed justifiable and if pressed she would have consented to them.

Such concessions would have been to her advantage. This case has attracted much attention in Japan. The American minister at Tokyo telegraphed this Legation that these men were innocent. Should any

See telegram

Law

harm befall them retaliation
is inevitable. These young men
have the fullest sympathy of
all foreigners in China, and
the advice of the high officials,
of all nationalities, has been
not to give them up without
conditions. The knowledge of this
fact may prevent their execution.

For the consideration above
set forth, I did not presume
to act without giving you the
fullest information on the case
and without your instructions.
I have not acted with any
partiality towards the Japanese
nor with any misapprehension
as to my authority but have
tried, in a difficult emergency,

to

to act as justice dictated.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Dipl. Bur.
OCT 11 1894

No 1950.

Files

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
OCT 11 1894
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 4th, 1894.

— Wm. Charles Dudley Jr. —
to the
— Secretary of State. —
— Subject —
Appointment of Shing Shin
and Wang Ying-huan Ministers
of the Tsung li Yamên.

No 1950.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 4th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to inform the Department of the appointment, on the 28th of August, by Imperial Decree of two new Ministers of the Tsung li Yamen,- Shing Yun and Wang Ming-hsüan.

The former is an Imperial clansman and belongs to the "White Banner" Corps of the Manchu Division. He has held the positions of Vice President of the Board of Punishments, War, Revenue and Ceremonial and is now President

of

of the Board of War. He enjoys the reputation of being a prudent and wise officer.

The latter is a native of the province of Shekiang, is a metropolitan graduate, (Equivalent to our LLD.) has held the office of Chief Inspector in the Imperial Inspectorate of Instruction, and is at present holding the office of Senior Vice President of the Board of Works. He stands well as an officer of administrative ability.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant.

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

No 1951.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 4th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 11 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

/ Acknowledged Oct 22/94

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 30 1894

Subject

Japanese alleged spy at Hankow.

Synopsis

The Yamên complain that the United States consul at Hankow sheltered and aided to escape a Japanese spy. Mr. Denby has instructed him that he cannot shelter Japanese accused of crime.

One enclosure.

No 1951.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 4th 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

On the 31st ultimo, the Tungli Yamen wrote this Legation, stating that the Governor General of Hukuang had telegraphed them that, on the 24th ultimo, a Japanese dressed as a Chinese had been seen without the foreign concession at Hankow, that some soldiers approached him for the purpose of arresting

Lin

him, that he defended himself with a sword and escaped into the concession, that the American consul refused to give him up, stating that he was a peaceable person, and, on the contrary, put him on a steamer and sent him to Shanghai. The Yamēn then advances the usual argument — there are no other charges made against the man — that he wore Chinese clothes and hence he was "obviously "engaged in an irregular "occupation". The fact is overlooked that a Japanese dressed as a Japanese, or as a foreigner, would be in constant danger of his

life

life at any place in China except Shanghai.

The Yamên make no demand as to this particular man, but request me to direct the consuls in future not to protect Japanese found in Chinese costume.

To this I replied, under date of today, that the United States consuls at Hankow and at the other ports will be instructed to afford no protection to Japanese acting as spies.

In a despatch from Mr. Child, dated the 24th ultimo, he states that, on that date, as the marshall of his consulate was escorting a Japanese to the steamer

Taiwo

Taiwo, about two thousand Chinese surrounded him, and it was only by a show of force on the part of the municipal authorities that a riot was averted. As the date corresponds with the date of the incident complained of by the Yamen, the Japanese referred to in both communications is doubtless the same.

I have written to Mr. Chief that he is not authorized to afford protection to Japanese who violate local laws or who commit belligerent acts, and that he is not authorized to hold Japanese accused of crime against the demand of the

Chinese

Chinese authorities. A copy of
this despatch is enclosed
herewith.

1/1951

The action of the Chinese authorities with reference to alleged Japanese spies is far from just and meets with the disapproval of the entire body of foreigners in China. Rewards for the capture of or information as to the whereabouts of Japanese spies have been advertised as follows:

For the capture of one Japanese spy taels 100;

For information as to the whereabouts of a Japanese spy taels 40.

To these offers are appended

other

others of a more barbarous character, as an offer of taels 50 to any Chinese soldier who brings in the head of a Japanese after battle.

With the inducement to false accusation thus held out no Japanese is safe. Many innocent people are sure to be accused and accusation means conviction. Once in the hands of the Chinese they will plead their innocence in vain.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

Mr. Denby to Mr. Child, No 192
Sept. 4. 1894.

Enclosure in No. 1951.

Mr. Denby to Mr. Chief.

No. 192. September 4. 1894.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 32, of the 24th ultimo, with reference to the assembling of a mob to prevent the escorting of a Japanese subject to the steamer by Mr. Chief, Marshall of your Consulate.

On the 31st of August the Tsungli Yamên wrote me officially concerning this affair, stating that you had refused to give up a Japanese demanded by the authorities and on the contrary had aided him to escape.

It is my duty to inform you that I am in receipt of telegraphic instructions from the Honorable Secretary of State that the legation and consulates of the

United

United States should not be made asylum for Japanese who violate local laws or commit belligerent acts. Protection, he states, is to be exercised unofficially and consistently with impartial neutrality. In another instruction he says "our "legation and consulates in China "are not authorized to hold Japanese, "accused of crime, against the "demand of Chinese authorities."

I call your attention again to my circular instruction of the 31st July and request your strict conformity therewith.

I am etc,

(Sig'd) Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé etc.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
OCT 27 1894
No 1952.

File

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 5th 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 27 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Alleged Japanese spy at Tientsin

Synopsis

Japan assures the U. S. Minister at Tokyo that Mr. Ishikawa, held as a spy at Tientsin, is innocent and asks this Legation to use good offices to secure his release. This China refuses.

No 1952.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 5th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In my despatch No 1927, of the 14th ultimo, I referred incidentally to the fact that a Japanese had been seized at Tientsin, accused of being a spy.

The circumstances surrounding his seizure were of such a suspicious character that no objection could be made thereto.

This

This Japanese, whose name was Ishikawa Goichi, was stated by the Japanese Consul at Tientsin, in a list given by him to Mr. Read, to be a Japanese student and to be one of six Japanese who proposed remaining at that city. This Mr. Ishikawa was suspected by Mr. Read as being a spy and he urged the Chargé d'affaires of Japan, when he passed through Tientsin, to take him away. This the Chargé promised to do and Mr. Read, relying on this promise notified the Viceroy that he had gone with the others from Tientsin.

On Monday evening, the 9th ultimo

ultimo, he was seized under the circumstances set forth in my despatch No. 1927, of the 11th ultimo, viz. coming, in Chinese costume, at night, from the house of the chief Secretary of the Director of the Ordnance Department. Since this date he has been kept in confinement, without, as far as I can learn, undue hardship.

On the 29th ultimo, I received from Mr. Dun, United States Minister at Tokyo, a telegram as follows:

"Japanese Ishikawa Goichi

"has been arrested [at]

"Tientsin as a spy. Japanese

"Government assures me he

is

"is not well known to Mr.
"Tkomura*. Japanese Government
"requests you will use good
"offices to obtain release
"and his return home".

Upon receipt of this telegram, I directed the United States consul at Tientsin to state to the viceroy Li that the Japanese Government had assured this Legation that Mr. Ishikawa was not a spy and to request his delivery, for the purpose of returning him to his own country. On the 1st instant, the Tsotai Sheng, at Tientsin, replied to Mr. Read, on behalf of the Viceroy, setting forth the suspicious circumstances of his capture and

* Formerly Chargé d'Affaires of Japan, at Peking.

and refusing to accede to this request.

I have notified Mr. Dun of this refusal.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' Affaires ad interim.

271

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
OCT 27 1894

7

No. 1953.

Legation of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 27 1894
RECEIVED

Peking, September 6th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Chinese authorities offer rewards for Japanese heads.

Synopsis

The Governor of Formosa and the Director of the Arsenal at Shanghai make proclamations offering rewards for sinking Japanese ships and taking Japanese heads.

One enclosure.

No 1953.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 6th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

1/1953 enclose, herewith, a translation of a proclamation issued by the Governor of Formosa, offering prizes for the sinking of Japanese ships and small boats, and for the taking of Japanese heads, as follows:

For the sinking of a large Japanese war vessel taels 6.000;

For

For the sinking of a small war vessel taels 2.000;

For the sinking of a man-of-war's boat containing one or two men taels 400;

For sinking a boat full of men taels 800;

For the Heads of Japanese officers taels 200 each;

For the Head of a distinguished officer taels 400, "and other rewards";

For the Heads of Japanese soldiers and sailors taels 100 each.

The proclamation closes with an urgent admonition not to confuse Japanese with other foreigners, who are to be well treated. It points out that

Japan

"Japan is a country by itself;
"it has nothing to do with
"western countries, and has no
"interest in either the Roman
"Catholic or Protestant Religions".

This proclamation requires little comment. It is a direct invitation and encouragement to indiscriminate slaughter, not by soldiers alone but by "soldiers, people and fishermen". The wounded and prisoners and shipwrecked will alike be slain. This proclamation has been copied in the three Chinese daily papers at Canton and in all the Chinese papers at Shanghai. It will soon be known throughout the empire

and

and will incite the lawless elements against Japanese residents wherever they may be.

A similar proclamation* has been issued by Lu Taotai, principal director of the Kiangnan Arsenal, at Shanghai. His official, in addition to the rewards for sinking ships and taking heads, offers further rewards for information as to Japanese spies; taels 100 for the capture of a spy, taels 40 for information as to the whereabouts of one.

In conversation with the ministers of the Yamen, on other subjects, some time ago, I referred to the proclamation of

* Published in the Shen Pao, Shanghai Aug. 27. 1894.

of the Governor of Formosa. They professed ignorance concerning it. To later representations from other legations, they manifested irritation at being criticized in the matter, and stated that such proclamations are in accordance with old custom, that their provisions apply only to belligerents, and that the whole matter is of little importance.

The Chinese Ministers are well aware of the view which foreign governments take of such practices and, unless otherwise directed, I shall not refer again to the matter.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

Translation of proclamation as above from the Kupao; Shanghai August 14th 1894.

Enclosure 1 with despatch to 1953.

Proclamation issued by Shao,
Governor of Formosa.

Whereas the Japanese commence
hostilities by opening fire on our
vessels off Yashan in Korea, let
it be known that if any of their
War vessels should appear at any
of the Formosan ports our forces
are at once to attack them.

Should any of the Enemy's small
steamers be found about the small
ports for the purpose of prying into
our affairs, or, if any of them were
should be found clandestinely on
shore, our soldiers, people and
fishermen on seeing them are to
attack them and kill them at once.

For sinking a large Japanese war

vessel

vessel some time ago telegraphic instructions fixed the reward at taels 3.000.- As the amount was regarded too small, the question was reconsidered and it has now been decided to make it taels 6.000.

For sinking a small Japanese war vessel, some time ago telegraphic instructions fixed the reward at taels 1000. but on reconsideration it has been increased to taels 2.000.

For sinking a man of war's boat the reward by telegraphic instructions was fixed at taels 400, but it has now been decided after reconsideration to make the following discrimination, viz:- for sinking a boat with one or two men in it a reward of taels 400, will be given; for sinking a boat full of men a reward of taels 800 will be given.

For

For the head of Japanese officer a reward of Yen 200 Each will be given; for the head of well known or distinguished officer Yen 200, and in addition other rewards. For the head of Each Japanese soldier or sailor Yen 100.

These rewards will be given after the Military Commanders and the local officers have investigated and pronounced upon Each case. Our promises will be faithfully carried out, and in addition further marks of favor will be granted. Compensation of an exceptional form will, according to regulations, be made for our killed and wounded.

If any of the officers or men of our forces fail to stand by and do their duty on the Eve of battle and

and protect our military interests, they will be immediately decapitated.

Japan is a country by itself; it has nothing to do, or connected with western countries, and has no interest in either the Roman Catholic or Protestant religions. Our soldiers and people must know that China is at present at war with Japan alone, and the reporters made known to fighting and taking of heads applies only to the Japanese units and their officers and men.

Friendly relations still exist between China and all other foreign countries. Therefore all foreign Consuls, consulates, foreign merchants, missionaries and their chapels should be treated in the same kind manner and afforded due protection as heretofore.

to

do not by mistake become involved or implicated in falsely disseminating unfounded rumors thereby unlawfully creating confusion and disturbances. Those who disobey will suffer severe punishment, and no leniency will be shown. The Governor will truly reward and certainly punish those deserving it.

This special proclamation is proclaimed for the information of our soldiers and people so that they may abide by its injunctions.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
OCT 27 1894
No 1954.

File

OCT 29 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 7th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 27 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The assault on the Chungking

Synopsis

Encloses statements from the master and the chief officer of the ship as to what took place on that occasion.

Two enclosures.

No 1954.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 7th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch No 1925, of the 14th ultimo, concerning the assault on the Japanese passengers on the ship Chungking, at Tongku, on the 2nd ultimo, I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a copy of a statement in writing, in reference thereto, made by the master of the ship to Mr. Read,

1/1954

and

and certified to by Mr. James Wilson, a British merchant of high standing at Tientsin, who was a passenger at the time of the assault.

2/1954 I enclose, also, a copy of an affidavit of James Knight Harris, chief officer of the Chingking, subscribed and sworn to before the United States Consul General at Shanghai, giving an account of what took place on the above mentioned occasion.

In compliance with Mr. Dunn's telegraphic request to investigate this assault, I have procured these statements to be made and have sent copies to him.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

1- Statement of the Master of S.S. Chungking.

2- Affidavit of the Chief Officer of S.S. Chungking.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1954.

Tientsin, China, 22nd Aug. 1894.

To)

Sheridan P. Read,
Consul of the United States,
Tientsin.

Sir:

At your request I beg to furnish you with the following facts, which occurred on board of the British Steamer "Chung King" (China Navigation Company), while at wharf at Tang Ku, between the hours of 12.30 and 5.30, on the morning of the 2nd instant.

About the first named time, when crew and passengers were asleep, we were suddenly boarded by from thirty to fifty soldiers armed with rifles, swords and spears, accompanied by an official, who stated to me, through my No. 2. Compradore, that he had orders from Li Hung Chiang to arrest all Japanese passengers on board. They then entered the saloon and

compelled us with drawn weapons to open every stateroom on the plea of searching for Japanese. They forcibly dragged from one of the rooms the two amahs of the Japanese Consul's wife and bound their legs and arms with cords; Also Mr. Iwara, a student of Chinese language, they similarly bound, and then dropped him from the top of a gangway on to the wharf, a distance of fully six feet.

They then searched all the officer's cabins, also upper and lower decks, where they found eight Japanese, Japanese women, who were similarly brutally treated and dragged, some by the hair, down the gangway on to the wharf.

All were allowed to remain in this condition, lying on the wharf for fully two hours, until another official arrived who caused their cords to be undone, and about 4. A. M. they were all

taken away under escort of a portion of the soldiers to one of the coal sheds adjoining the Customs quarters. A list was then taken of the personal luggage of the Japanese stored in the forehold.

About 5. A. M. they were all escorted back by the soldiers and it has since been reported to me that the Japanese Consul's wife lost $250, a gold watch and a travelling clock; Mr. C. Higuchi $250; Miss Ikida $50; besides the women had all their rings and hairpins taken from them.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,
(Signed) Luiton. J. Hughes,
Master.

We hereby certify that the statements made in the foregoing document are correct to our knowledge and belief.
(Signed) Luiton. J. Hughes, Master.
of s/s "Chung King."
(Signed) James Wilson Passenger of s/s "Chung King."

Subscribed
by Messrs. Hughes and Wilson
and certified as being true
before me at Tientsin this 22nd
day of August 1894.
(Signed) Sheridan P. Read
Consul of the United States at
Tientsin, China.

Enclosure 2 in No 1954.

Affidavit of James Knight Harris as to the raid of the Chinese soldiers on the British ship, Chungking, - on the 2nd of August, 1894.

I was the chief officer of the Chungking. on the 2nd of August this boat was lying in the river Peiho, at ~~the Tangku~~ coaling wharf, - about 47 miles from Tientsin. We had on board about twenty five Japanese passengers, two of them being men and the rest females. We also had on board about 6 - foreigners and one hundred and twenty chinese. We were boarded one A. m. by about 50 or 60 Chinese soldiers, who, with a great deal of noise, laid violent hands on the Japanese passengers. They tied them hand and foot, and took them down to the coaling wharf. Those that resisted, they pulled along by the hair of the head, and beat with the butt ends of their rifles.

They went into the saloons and searched the foreign passengers rooms. They took two of the children of the French attachè of the Legation, and were about to carry them away, believing them to be Japanese, when they were finally convinced that this was not the case. One of the lady passengers was the wife of the Japanese — Consul at Tientsin. They searched her rooms and carried off two of her children, - whom they brought back after a little while outside of this they did not molest her - except to take from her about two hundred dollars. In her room they found a student from the Japanese Consulate at Tientsin, whom they first pricked in the back with a sword. Then they pulled him into the saloon, and after throwing him violently down - they bound him hand and foot and hurled him from the gangway

to the wharf, a distance of about ten feet. Next It was about this time that the Chinese soldiers fired a volley, which I understood to mean as a signal to the fort near-by that they had been — successful in their raid upon the ship. They told the ships officers and all the foreign passengers that they would not be molested if they did not interfere; but at the same time upon entering one room they pointed their swords in the faces of the second mate and the third engineer and prevented them from moving while they searced the room. When the captain attempted to walk forward, they kept him against the side of the deck house until he agreed to go into the saloon where all the passengers were, by this time, gathered together. All the luggage of the Japanese passengers was seized for the

purpose of inventory, and then the ship's officers were ordered to put all of it in the ship's hold. We had two Armenians on board, who were seized along with the Japanese, but, without being bound, were ordered ashore. After this a rougher element of the soldiers entered the saloon and ordered liquors and cigars, which were not given them. Upon being given water they spat it all around the room. When being asked through an interpreter their reasons for making this raid, they stated that their authority was an order from Li Hung Chang. The man in charge of the party and the man who answered our questions was evidently a petty mandarin. About half past two o'clock a higher official came down to the boat and had the women re-bound and marched them all off to a go-down, which was

near-by. All the Japanese-
were returned to the ship about
5 a.m. They presented a very
shocking appearance, several of
them being covered with bruises;
and they said that all their trink-
ets, rings and money and keys had
been taken from them. Then the
Chinese soldiers advised the captain
to take his ship away from the
wharf, saying that they would
not be answerable for the action
of the Tangku villagers. About
seven A.M. we cast off and
crossed the bar about 5 o'clock
in the afternoon and anchored
for the night. On the following
morning the Japanese Consul
from Tientsin came on board.
We then went down to Chefoo.

(Signed) James Knight Harris.

Sworn to and subscribed
before me, this the 27th day
of August, 1894.
(Signed) T. R. Jernigan

Consul General of the United
States at Shanghai, China.

No 1955.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 27 1894
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 7th, 1894.

— Mr. Charles Denby Jr. —

to the

— Secretary of State —

— Subject —

Enclosing duplicate Statement of account for official telegrams from August 5th to August 11th 1894.

No 1955. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 7th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose herewith duplicate statement of my account for official telegrams from August 5th @ August 11th, 1894.

1/1955.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' affaires ad interim

T.H.

Enclosure: Duplicate statement as above.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 29 1894

1 - Mr Rockhill
1 - Texas
Oct 29

No. 1956.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 7th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 27 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Customs Medical Reports

forwarded.

No 1956.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 7th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward by this mail, under separate cover, duplicate copies of the Customs Medical Reports for the half-year ended September 30th 1891, which have just been issued from the customs press.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' Affaires ad interim.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
OCT 27 1894
No 1957.

File

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 8th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 27 1894
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC
OCT 29 1894

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Contraband of war under the American flag.

Synopsis

A sale of two Chinese steamers is arranged at Shanghai to put them under the American flag. One of the steamers then loads with Chinese munitions of war. On clearance being refused by the Consul General the alleged sale is cancelled.

No 1957.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 8th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report to you that during the last few days of July, before the declaration of war between China and Japan, an American citizen at Shanghai came before the United States consul general and stated that he proposed buying two Chinese steamers, and that he wished them to

be

be recorded as American owned vessels, having the right to fly the American flag.

The Consul general, having secured affidavits from the buyer and the seller that the transaction was a bona fide one, without reservation, and having seen a certified check pass as consideration, consented to the transaction.

Subsequently, on the 4th day of August, the consul general was informed that one of these steamers, the Smith, had been chartered by her American owners to a British firm, and that she was then lying at the arsenal at Shanghai,

loading

loading with munitions of war
in the interest of China. This
infomation turned out to be
correct, and Mr. Jernigan at
once notified the owner that
the American flag could not
protect contraband of war, and
that the Smith would not be
allowed to clear the port,
before he was satisfied as to
her cargo. At the same time,
Mr. Jernigan wrote the Taotai,
who promptly replied, stating
that he appreciated the rectitude
of the consul general's intention
to preserve strict neutrality,
and saying that he had ordered
all munitions of war landed
from the Smith.

The

The result of this action was that the parties to the sale reappeared before the consul general and cancelled all papers relating thereto. It was, in all probability, never intended as a <u>bona fide</u> sale, but Mr. Jernigan's prompt action defeated the object of the fraud.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires <u>ad interim</u>.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
NOV 1 1894

No 1958.

Secretary of State.
OCT 31 1894

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
OCT 27 1894
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 8th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

alleged spies at Shanghai

Synopsis

Encloses copies of correspondence with the Consul General with reference thereto, to which attention is called as explanatory of the delay in giving them up.

Four enclosures.

№ 1958.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 8th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

1/1958 enclose, herewith, a copy of a despatch, dated the 18th ultimo, from the Consul General to this Legation, with reference to the two alleged spies then held by him at Shanghai.

I enclose, also, copies of all

2/1958 the telegrams received by me from Mr. Jernigan on the subject,

and

and of all the telegrams sent
3/1958 by me to him.

I enclose, also, a copy of a
4/1958 subsequent despatch from
Mr. Finigan, which relates
to the same matter.

I respectfully call attention
to this correspondence. It will
help to explain the action
of this Legation as to the
rendition of the two Japanese
and the reluctance of the
Consul General to give them
up.

As to the action of the Consul
General of France in the matter,
I have the honor to state
that his refusal to deliver
the alleged spies to the Chinese
authorities

authorities and his surrender
of them to the Consul General
of the United States, met
with the full approval of the
Minister of France at Peking.
The French Minister told me
that the French Consul General
not only was not required to
surrender them to China, but
that "he had not the right to do
so." In replying to your
telegraphic inquiry of the 21st
August, I was guided by this
assurance.

I have the honor to state,
in conclusion, that the opinion
of the foreign representatives
at Peking was opposed to
giving up the accused Japanese
without

without a preliminary examination before a foreign official.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim

Enclosures:

1. Mr. Jernigan to Mr. Denby
No 21 of the 18th Aug. 1894.
2. Copies of eight telegrams from Mr. Jernigan to the Legation.
3. Copies of five telegrams from the Legation to Mr. Jernigan.
4. Mr. Jernigan to Mr. Denby
No 30 of the 1st Sept. 1894.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1958.

Mr. Jernigan to Mr. Denby.

No. 21. August 18th 1894.

Sir:

I have the honor to communicate that, on Tuesday last, the Consul General for France came to this office and informed me that two Japanese subjects, at the instance of the Chinese authorities, had been arrested, by the French police, on the French Concession, and that he had ordered them to be brought to me. Soon after, and before the French Consul General had left, the police arrived with the two Japanese in custody. I stated to the French Consul General that I was not empowered with any of the functions of the Japanese Consul General, although representing Japanese interests, and consequently could not try a Japanese for any offence he might commit, but that I understood that I could

intervene

intervene in the interest of humanity and justice where the safety and interests of Japanese were involved.

The two Japanese are charged with being spies, and to have shut the door of the consulate in their faces would possibly have been equivalent to turning them over to the executioner.

There was no complaint before me of charges against these Japanese. The alleged offence against them had in no way been brought to my attention by any officer of China, either verbally or otherwise. So far as concerned China this Consulate General was in ignorance having no record before it.

The two Japanese, then, stood before me as asking for an asylum in apprehension of danger to their lives. They asked to be allowed to remain in this Consulate General until they could be made acquainted of any charge against them, and

in

in order that any charge made against them might be heard before the proper tribunal.

The asylum thus asked for was granted, with the understanding that I would adopt the necessary precautions to repel any idea that I was protecting any enemy of China and such as would enable me to preserve the <u>status quo</u> until the matter was fully understood.

On Thursday last, I received a communication from the Taotai requesting that the two Japanese be delivered to his officer and charging that they were spies. I replied that I would lay the facts before you and obey your instructions.

This he understood and assented to.

Some of the papers found in possession of the Japanese would naturally, in the state of war now existing

existing, create a suspicion of a character tending to support the alleged charge, but they state that they had been students in Shanghai for several years, wearing Chinese clothes, giving the name of the school, the teacher the place of their lodging, with other facts that give to their statement a minuteness which more than raises a reasonable doubt in their favor.

One of these young men especially has the appearance of being well raised. His deportment is that of a gentleman and there is no doubt of his possessing more than ordinary intelligence.

The rule prevailing here is, when a foreigner has no consular representative, he is amenable for trial before the Mixed Court.

The arrest was made on the foreign concession, and, I understand, the Japanese have resided on the foreign concession, and were so residing

residing in a lodging house on the same when taken in custody. I need not advance an opinion as to the summary proceedings of a native court, and a common feeling of humanity convinces the securement of a tribunal for their trial the proceedings of which would be promotive of justice according to our idea and whose judgement would be likewise accepted as righteous.

I may add that all foreigners here strongly approve of the course thus far taken by me and this course also has the endorsement of the foreign press.

The case is one of great delicacy and I have endeavored to use such "tact" as to maintain good feelings all around, assuring the Taotai that nothing should be done prejudicial to the rights of China and that I would neither condemn nor defend but remain impartial to the

interests

interests of all concerned.

I am etc.,

(Sig'd) T. R. Lenigan

Consul General.

P. S.

It appears to me that the tribunal before which Japanese, when charged with offences, are to be tried should be determined without delay.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1958.

Copies of eight telegrams received by the Legation from the Consul General.

1.

Aug. 19th 1894.

Have written fully relative to alleged Japanese spies they are secure, Jernigan.

2.

Aug. 20th 1894.

Alleged Japanese spies arrested on French concession by French police at instance of China. Delivered at this consulate by French Consul General. Disclaimed the right to exercise Japanese consular functions. Accused asked for asylum till case could be investigated. Granted with understanding that I retain power to preserve status quo. They and papers secure; advise patience; important principle involved. Reasonable doubt China's

rights

rights. No danger of prejudice. Assure Yamên of my strict impartiality and my purpose to maintain status quo. Have written fully. Jernigan.

3.

Aug. 21st 1894.

Propose alleged spies remain in consular jail till close of war and all papers given to China. In which court are Japanese to be tried? Jernigan.

4.

Aug. 25th 1894.

Depatch must reach you soon. Conservatism greatly beneficial to China. Am sending Japanese home. Managers of business houses only to remain; suspects promptly deported. Jernigan.

5

Aug. 25th 1894.

Arrested on concession peacefully and openly engaged away from seat of war; not a Japanese soldier

on

on Chinese evil at the time.
More school boys. China can
well afford to have us keep
them secure. Jernigan.

Ellsworth called
Wants young men

6.

Aug. 27th 1894.

Cable Gresham asylum only
granted. Suspected have resided
here three years as students.
Are boys. Papers in their possession
such as intelligent students
might prepare for personal
information. Suggest American
consuls act as arbitrators.
Jernigan.

7.

Sept 1. 1894.

Instructions received. Hope
position here fully understood.
Jernigan

8.

Sept 3. 1894.

Alleged spies delivered today
as instructed. Translation mailed
not important now. You seem

not

not to understand position here.
Jernigan.

Enclosure 3 in No 1958.

Copies of five telegrams sent by the Legation to the Consul General.

1.

Aug. 19. 1894.

Report case alleged spies await instructions. Denby.

2.

Aug. 20. 1894.

Telegraph report case of spies immediately. Yamen impatient. Denby.

3.

Aug. 25. 1894.

Depatch concerning spies not received - Telegraph anything you have to add to previous telegrams. Denby.

4.

Aug. 27. 1894.

Cabled Gresham fully. Your report not yet received. Denby.

5.

Sept. 1st 1894

Department

Department instructs me
that you had no power to receive
and are not authorized to
hold the alleged spies - Deliver
to Taotai. Denby.

Enclosure 4 in No. 1958.

Mr. Jernigan to Mr. Denby.

No. 30. September 1st 1894.

Sir:

I have the honor to verify the following telegram sent you in cypher on the 1st:

"Denby, Peking

"Seven Japanese students
"suspected, effects searched
"in my presence. Taotai's
"secretary present. Nothing
"suspicious found. Gone to
"Japan. Alleged spies same
"class of students residing
"here several years. Their
"papers only such as intelligent
"students would have. Believe
"them innocent. Try to arrange
"for their deportation.

"Jernigan"

For two or three years there have been a number of Japanese youths attending school at Shanghai,

and

and, to avoid the curious, it has been their custom to dress in Chinese clothes.

When war was declared, this custom was not changed, and this is the ground of suspicion against these young men. Learning that I had advised them to return to Japan to avoid trouble, the Taotai sent his secretary to me with the request that their baggage be examined. No charge had been prefered but, having in view the interest of the young men alleged to be spies, members of the same school, and believing that a failure to find anything suspicious would greatly tend to their acquital, I took the chances and assented.

The examination could not hurt the young men owning the baggage, for they had gone to Japan, leaving a friend to superintend the shipping of their baggage.

This

This friend was present at the examination with my marshall.

The result to the examination was a complete vindication of the students from all surpicion, and some of their papers were similar to the papers found with the effects of the alleged spies and were nothing more than notes taken on geographical subjects.

I do not think the two now suspected are spies - Even if a reasonable surpicion attached, it would be cruel to behead mere boys for indiscretions which may have been committed in furtherance of their educational plans.

I am interested in their case, because I feel that to deliver them to a native court may be to deliver them to death and this would lead to retaliation.

The barbarous proclamation of the Governor of Formosa shocks

civilization

civilization throughout the world and it yet remains for China to disavow the prize money receipt for heads and chips issued here by a subordinate officer of her arsenal. When the barbarities and cruelties of the dark ages are sought to be utilized in modern warfare, it becomes the humane and patriotic of all clines and races to effectively protest.

I am, Sir, etc.,

(Sgd) Thos. R. Lenigan

Consul General.

7th Encl

No 1959.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 9th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 27 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

OCT 27 1894

Subject

Confirms telegrams.

One enclosure.

No 1959.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 9th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm, on separate sheets enclosed, herewith, six telegrams from the Department to this Legation and four from this Legation to the Department, being all the telegrams received and sent, up to this date, not hitherto confirmed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

Confirmation of telegrams from the Department of Aug. 13th, 21st, 23rd 26th, 29th and 31st, and telegrams to the Department of Aug. 21st, 26th, 27th and 31st.

Enclosure in No: 1959.

Telegrams Received

1.

Aug. 18th 1894.

Chinese Minister complains that United States consul at Shanghai is protecting Japanese spy report immediately and fully. Gresham.

2.

Aug. 21st 1894.

Telegram 21st received. Was French consul required to surrender the two Japanese in French Concession at Shanghai on the demand of Chinese authorities? If so why did he deliver them to Consul General of the United States? Our legation and consulates in China are not authorized to hold Japanese accused of crime against the demand of Chinese authorities.

Gresham.

3.

Anxiously awaiting reply to my cipher telegram 21st. Are the two

Japanese

Japanese still held by our Consul General at Shanghai and if so why?. Gresham.

4.

Aug. 26. 1894.

Aug. 26. Denby Chargé, Peking. Include date in telegrams to Department. Gresham.

5.

Aug. 29. 1894

You and Consul General at Shanghai seem to misapprehend nature of protection authorized lending good offices does not invest Japanese with extraterritoriality nor should legation or consulates be made asylum for Japanese who violate local laws or commit belligerent acts. Protection to be exercised unofficially and consistently with impartial neutrality. Consul General of the United States, having no power, received two Japanese and is not authorized hold them

them. Your suggestion that our consuls act as arbitrators not entertained. Gresham.

6.

Aug. 31. 1894.

Your telegram this date received. My instruction 29th clear.

Gresham.

Telegrams Sent

1.

Aug. 21. 1894.

I have received your cipher telegram. According to the Yamên's statement, prefect of Shanghai, on the 13th, saw in the French concession two Japanese wearing Chinese clothing and secured arrest by the French Consul. Plans were found upon them. French consul delivered them to the Consul General of the United States, who refused to give them up without definite instructions of legation of the United States. Yamên requested

their

their delivery - I replied I could not act until the Consul General has reported - The United States Consul General telegraphs accused asked for asylum until the case investigated - Was granted with this understanding that <u>status quo</u> shall be maintained - Accused and papers safe - Important principle involved - Rights of China doubted - The United States Consul General urges the legation to await written report expected to arrive tomorrow. I have assured Yamen of impartiality and request delay - On receiving report of Consul General will telegraph - Denby.

2.

Aug - 26 - 1894.

Received telegram 23rd and 21st August - the latter one last - Under the international rule in the Shanghai settlements, French consul had not the right to surrender Japanese to Chinese officials - Arrests

can

can only be made on the concessions by order of consuls. Chinese arrested tried by Mixed Court. Foreigners delivered to their consuls. Japanese were delivered to the United States Consul General because the United States protects the interests of Japanese. The United States Consul General reports alleged spies were schoolboys peacefully and openly living at Shanghai. I request that I be directed to order examination by United States Consul General with Chinese official present. China should not be allowed to inflict barbarous treatment if guilty. Denby.

3.

Aug. 27. 1894.

27th August. The United States Consul General telegraphs alleged two spies have resided Shanghai three years as students: The papers in their possession such as intelligent students might prepare for personal

information

information. Suggests United States consuls shall act as arbitrators. I state many Japanese have worn Chinese clothing without objection though contrary to treaty. Denby.

4.

Aug. 31st 1894.

August 31st. I have received your cipher telegram 29th. American Minister to Japan telegraphs that Japanese Government assures two Japanese are not spies. Japanese Government requests China take no action until Minister Denby arrives. Will you authorize me to make the proposition to Chinese Government or do you order immediate unconditional surrender to Chinese Government? Denby.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
OCT 27 1894

File

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
OCT 29 1894
COPIED. FOREIGN RELATONS.

No. 1960.

Legation of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 27 1894
RECEIVED.

Peking, September 10th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Exemption of private ships from capture.

Synopsis

Encloses copies of notes addressed by Japanese Government to the American Minister at Tokyo, giving reasons for withdrawing from negotiations.

Two enclosures.

No 1960.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 10th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a copy of a despatch from the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs to Mr. Dun, United States Minister at Tokyo, explanatory of Japan's withdrawal from negotiations concerning the exemption of private ships from capture.

I also enclose, herewith, a

Copy

copy of another despatch, from the same to the same, in explanation of the refusal of Japan to grant safe conducts to the vessels of the Chinese Foreign Customs Service, employed as lighthouse tenders.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

1- Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan to Mr. Dun, Aug. 18th 1894.

2- Same to same, Aug. 23rd 1894.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1960.

Department of Foreign Affairs.
Tokyo, Aug. 18th 1894.

His Excellency Edwin Dun,
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister
Plenipotentiary of the United States
of America.

Sir:

I have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's note of the 15th inst., enclosing a further telegram from the United States Chargé d'affaires at Peking.

I beg to request that Your Excellency will have the kindness to inform Mr. Denby by wire that the Imperial Government definitely withdraw from the negotiations regarding the proposed exemption of private ships from capture.

The Imperial Government do not feel called upon to explain to the Chinese Government the reasons underlying their resolution, but

the

the courteous action of Your Excellency and Mr. Denby makes them especially anxious that you should not remain in ignorance of the actual grounds upon which their determination rests.

The position in which Mr. Denby's last telegram placed the question, left, in the estimation of the Imperial Government, no room for hope that a satisfactory accommodation on the subject was possible, and a no less serious obstacle to the conclusion of an arrangement is the fact, which has but recently come to the knowledge of the Imperial Government that the Chinese Government is still holding the vessel, the alleged unconditional release of which was advanced as the pretext for the proposed general understanding.

Thanking Your Excellency for your courtesy in this matter and requesting you to convey to Mr.

Denby

Denby the expression of my high
appreciation of his kindness, I
beg to renew to Your Excellency
the assurances of my highest
consideration.

(S'g'd) Mutsu Munemitsu
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1960.

Department of Foreign Affairs.
Tokyo, August 23rd, 1894.

His Excellency
Edwin Dun,
Envoy Extraordinary and
Minister Plenipotentiary of the
United States of America.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's note of the 18th instant, communicating the copy of a telegram from the United States Chargé d'Affaires at Peking

While the Imperial Government are disposed to do everything in their power to protect neutral commerce, they do not think they can reasonably be expected, in the direction indicated, to relax to any extent their belligerent rights, since it would be impossible for them to secure any satisfactory guarantee that

the

the vessels in question might not be employed in conveying contraband of war. Besides, by having recourse to the expedient of extinguishing established lights along her coast, China has clearly deprived herself of the right, even if her motives were wholly disinterested, to ask Japan's indulgence in the matter of Chinese lighthouse tenders.

I beg, therefore, to ask Your Excellency to have the kindness to inform Mr. Derby that the Imperial Government cannot grant the request preferred through the Inspector General of the Chinese Customs.

I avail myself etc.,

(Signed) Mutsu Munemitsu,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
OCT 27 1894

File

No. 1961.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 12th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 27 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 29 1894

Subject

Regulations for shipping at Wei Hai Wei.

Synopsis

Encloses copy of regulations adopted by China for ships approaching the above mentioned naval station.

One enclosure.

No 1961.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 12th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

1/1961 enclose, herewith, a copy of certain regulations adopted by the Chinese Government, and communicated to this Legation by the Tsungli Yamên, for ships entering Wei Hai Wei.

A copy of these regulations has been forwarded to the Admiral on this station and another

to

to the Consul General of the United States at Shanghai, for the information of American shipping.

Wei Hai Wei is a large Chinese naval station on the north coast of Shantung east of Chefoo.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

Copy of regulations.

Enclosure in No 1961.

Copy of Regulations for guarding Wei Hai Wei, drawn up by Captain Nielsen of the Customs cruiser Zeikow

---

1st At present torpedoes have been laid and booms have been put across the inner and outer entrances to Wei Hai Wei, and notice is given to all vessels that they must not approach within two miles of the entrances to the port.

2nd All foreign vessels wishing to communicate with the port, or to enter it, in the day time, must stop over two miles outside of the western entrance. They must hoist the flags I. C. P., of the commercial signal code, which mean "Can you send a boat?": If the officer of the port consents, he will hoist at the port the flag C

of

of the code, and an officer will at once be sent on board the vessel to make an examination. If the flags N. S. R. of the code are hoisted at the fort, it will mean that the vessel is too near and should move a little farther out to sea. The vessel must go beyond two and one half miles from shore.

If, after these flags have been hoisted, the vessel still approaches nearer the fort, the forts will open fire and if any injury is done by mistake it will be no concern of the Chinese authorities.

3rd Foreign vessels that may wish to communicate with the port, or enter it, at night, must stop at a distance of over three miles from shore.

Two red lights hoisted and exhibited from the fort will be the signal for the vessels to anchor until daylight, when they will

have

have to conform to regulation two, which applies to vessels during the daytime. No matter how urgent the business may be, vessels will not be allowed to enter the port at night. They may during the day time.

If the signal by lights is not complied with, the forts will open fire and if any injury is done by mistake it will be no concern of the Chinese authorities.

L

No 1962.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 27 1894
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 13th, 1894.

— Wm. Charles Denby Jr. —

to the

— Secretary of State —

— Subject —

Enclosing statement of telegram account from August 26th to August 31st, 1894.

No 1962. one Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 13th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to

Enclose herewith a statement of my

1962. account for official telegrams from

August 26th to August 31st, 1894.

amounting to $29.09, against which

I have this day drawn on you to

T. M. reimburse myself.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure: Statement as above.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Dpt. Bur.
OCT 27 1894
No 1963.

File

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 13th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 27 1894
RECEIVED.

OCT 27 1894

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Counterfeiting of trade marks

Synopsis

The Yamen is in receipt of a report that trade marks on piece goods are fraudulently imitated by foreign merchants. Mr. Denby has asked Consul General to investigate.

No 1963.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 13th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

During the month of January last, this Legation had some correspondence with the Tsungli Yamên, with reference to the fraudulent imitation by Chinese merchants of the trade marks on American piece goods. At the time, the Yamên replied, stating that such cases, when discovered, should

be

be reported by the consul to the customs taotai, who would arrest the guilty parties and take measures to prevent such practices.

On the 20th ultimo, the Yamën again wrote upon the subject, saying that the superintendent of Northern Trade had submitted a report from the taotai and the district magistrate of Shanghai, embodying a petition from one Tsii Yun, a person holding an official rank, director of the foreign goods guild. In this petition it is stated that at Shanghai it has never been the practice to counterfeit trade

marks

marks, but that at other ports foreign merchants had been in the habit of taking goods having no mark and, when selling them to Chinese, of stamping upon them any mark desired by the purchaser.

I have requested the Consul General to bring this matter to the attention of the importers of American piece goods at Shanghai. It will be easy for them to verify the statement and, if it is true, to suggest effective measures for the prevention of practices injurious to them, in which measures this legation and the consuls would willingly cooperate.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Confidential

Secretary of State
SEP 21 19 1894

Enclosure to dispatch Sept 21

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

SEP 20 1894 From Peking

September 15, 1894.

Received M.

F. J. Gresham

Washington.

In behalf of the American settlement you are requested to use influence persuade Japan to respect the neutrality of Shanghai which is again menaced.

Denby.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
File
No 1964.
OCT 1 1894

C

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 15th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

Neutrality of Shanghai

Synopsis

This Legation requested to use its influence to secure the respect of Shanghai's neutrality by Japan. Mr. Denby has telegraphed to Washington to that effect.

No 1964.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 15th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that I have received from the United States Consul General, at Shanghai, a telegram, requesting me to use influence to secure the respect of the neutrality of Shanghai by Japan.

From reliable official sources I learn that there is reason for anxiety on this subject.

He

The Japanese Government has shown a decided inclination to withdraw from the promise made to England that Shanghai would not be attacked. For this change of attitude there is much justification. China has not herself respected Shanghai's neutrality. The great Kiangnan arsenal is situated above the city on the same side of the river, just beyond the suburbs of the Chinese city. In the security which the promised neutrality affords, it has been in constant operation. Foreign ships have, also, quietly loaded with munitions of war from the

wharves

wharves of this arsenal, and, free from molestation, have awaited favorable opportunities to carry their cargoes to Formosa and elsewhere.

The Chinese Government is also reproached with violation of neutrality in the determination — manifested in the recent case of the two spies — to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over Japanese in the settlements. In consequence of this determination the Japanese are leaving the city in large numbers.

But, whatever grounds Japan may have for withdrawing from her undertaking, the neutrality of this great commercial center

is

is of inestimable importance to foreign trade. Under these circumstances, I had the honor to telegraph you today as follows:

"In behalf of the American
"settlement you are
"requested to use influence
"to induce Japan to respect
"the neutrality of Shanghai
"which is again menaced."

England and France have already been appealed to in this matter.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
File
OCT 31 1894

No. 1965.

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT OF STATE

Peking, September 15th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Mercantile code telegrams

Synopsis

His Legation was appealed to by Foochow merchants to obtain permission, from Chinese Government, for them to be allowed to send code telegrams subject to certain restrictions. Yamên consented thereto

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One enclosure.

No 1965.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 15th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that one of the first defensive measures taken by China, at the beginning of this war, was a prohibition to transmit code telegrams. No code telegrams are allowed to go forward except from foreign officials, and they are required to comply with certain

rules

rules. At Peking, such telegrams are required to be sent to the Yamên, though without any translation attached, and cipher telegrams received by the office are likewise sent to the Yamên for delivery. At the ports this supervision is exercised by the taotai. From merchants and others no cipher telegrams were at first received under any circumstances.

This prohibition coming, as it did, at the height of the tea season, worked great damage to trade. Code telegrams are not so much needed by merchants because of the element of secrecy as

because

because of their economy. A single code word will describe a sample of tea with greater accuracy than could be done by many words of open text. Similarly, details as to price, quantity, date and manner of shipment are briefly and accurately transmitted by code. These remarks apply equally to silk and other trades.

So great was the difference in cost between open and code telegrams that merchants found their profits eaten up by telegraphic charges. Under these circumstances business was seriously hampered.

This condition of affairs

was

was first brought to the attention of this Legation by the United States consul at Foochow. Under date of the 17th ultimo, he telegraphed me as follows:

"Business paralyzed by prohibition code telegrams.

"Foreign community request "your help arrange sending "code messages, subject to "reasonable restrictions and "inspection by officials".

Immediately upon receipt of this telegram, I entered into negotiations with the viceroy Li, through the consul at Tientsin, for some modification of the orders he had given the telegraph

administration

administration, which is under his control. I proposed to him to direct that code telegrams be accepted, if telegram and translation were examined by the foreign commissioner of customs, and certified by him to contain nothing adverse to China's interests. This plan would have been acceptable to the mercantile interests as the secrecy of transactions would have been safeguarded. The viceroy, through Sheng taotai, rejected this proposition but agreed that the plan adopted at Tientsin be extended to other ports. Sheng stated that if directed by the Yamên he would order

all

all telegraph offices to adopt the same practice, viz. to forward code telegrams if a translation of the telegram were submitted, with code book for identification, at the telegraph office. He suggested that this Legation come to an agreement to this effect with the Yamên, whereupon he would act.

In a personal interview with the Yamên, the Ministers showed no reluctance to come to such an understanding. I learned, in fact, that they had, after seeing me, telegraphed to Sheng Taotai to act as I suggested. In order, however, to be able to report definitely

to

to the merchants at Foochow, I wrote the Yamen, on the 6th instant, on the subject. On the 13th, I received a reply from them, in which they state that orders have been issued to permit the forwarding of code telegrams, from all ports, on the conditions which prevail at Tientsin.

1/965

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

He Kungli Yamen to Mr. Denby

No. 45 of the 13th September 1894.

Sole enclosure in No 1965.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby

No 45. Sept- 13- 1894.

Sir:

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 6th instant, refering to your statement, at a recent interview, that much dissatisfaction existed at Tsochow amongst the foreign merchants over the prohibition to send code telegrams and that great loss to trade was resulting therefrom.. You also stated that the United States Consul at Tientsin had been instructed to consult with Sheng Taotai at Tientsin, with a view to arranging some satisfactory plan, and that the consul now unites that code telegrams, at that port, may be sent by sending a translation with the code book to the office

for

for comparison, but that Sheng Taotai was unwilling to take any action as to the other ports unless so ordered by the Yamên. You request that the forwarding of code telegrams from all ports be authorized.

The Yamên has addressed the Minister Superintendent of Northern Trade to issue orders to the Tientsin customs taotai to instruct the telegraph offices at the various ports to act accordingly.

I have etc, etc. etc.

To Charles Denby Jr.

etc. etc. etc.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
File
1894

No 1966.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 17th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Duties of Consul General at Shanghai.

Synopsis

The non-occurrence of anti-Japanese outbreaks at Shanghai largely due to Mr. Jernigan's tact and judgement.

No. 1966.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 17th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that the increase of labor and responsibility which the exercise of good offices, on behalf of Japanese, brought upon the consuls of the United States in China was nowhere so burdensome as at Shanghai. Immediately upon the declaration of war, Japanese

from

from all parts of the empire flocked to that city. Though many have returned to Japan, about eight hundred still remain.

The interests of this large number of people, living in the midst of a hostile population have been ably cared for by Mr. Jernigan. It is largely due to his tact and judgement that, notwithstanding the existence of war, no serious harm has befallen any of them and no popular outbreak has occurred.

These facts, highly creditable to Mr. Jernigan, I feel it my duty to call to your attention.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' Affaires ad interim.

No 1967.

OCT 31 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 17th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

1 Jr. Treaties No 3.94

Subject

Information as to tides.

Synopsis

Replies to the inquiries made in Department's circular of March 21st last will be forwarded directly from the Coast Inspector's Office at Shanghai to Washington.

No 1967.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 17th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to your circular of the 21st of last March, and to my despatch No 1853, of the 19th of May, concerning certain information as to tides, I have the honor to state that I am now in receipt of a despatch from the Inspector General of Customs, stating that the records of observations, which

I

I had asked him for on June 30th, are now ready. They have been compiled from various sources by the Coast Inspector at Shanghai. His official reports that these records are so voluminous and so valuable that it is inadvisable to send them, in the present unsettled condition of affairs, to Peking, and he requests my permission to forward them direct from Shanghai to the Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey at Washington. For security against their total loss, they are to be sent by successive mails in two separate packages.

I have consented to this method. The first package should arrive at about the same time as this despatch.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

ship

cable-free

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

SEP 20 1894
DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

From Peking

September 18, 1894.

Received M.

Confirmed 20 Sept 94 m

Gresham

Washington.

September 18. Telegraphic communication between Peking and Chinese army in Korea cut off by Japanese. The last reports Japanese effected on the 14th surrounding of Chinese army which is starving. Confidentially am informed that Emperor attempted to extort a sum of money from the Vice Roy at Tien-tsin.

Denby.

Confirmed
Sept. 22
F. J.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

SEP 21 1894

Secretary of State

From Peking

September 18, 1894.

Gresham

Received M.

Washington.

Imperial decree published here last night reproaches ~~Gov~~ Vice Roy Li's misconduct (of) the war. Emperor deprives him of his two chief decorations and threatens further punishments.

Denby

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
File
NOV 1 1894

No 1968.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 18th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The Emperor reprimands Viceroy Li.

Synopsis

Encloses decree from Peking Gazette in which Emperor criticizes Viceroy Li's conduct of the war and deprives him of two decorations.

One enclosure.

No 1968.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 18th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

enclose, herewith, a translation

of a decree which appeared in

the manuscript Peking Gazette

of last night.

This decree is an expression

of the Emperor's dissatisfaction

at the Viceroy Li's conduct of

the war. It states that he

alone was responsible for

the

the military affairs of China and that he has failed to acquit himself properly of his duties. It is ordered that he be deprived of the "three eyed peacock feather", granted him last Chinese new year as a mark of imperial favor, and of the "yellow riding jacket".

These decorations, strange as their designations sound to us, are only bestowed as marks of the utmost favor of the Emperor. They are conferred in recognition of exemplary services. The "three eyed peacock" feather is granted only to princes of the blood and in compensation for military

achievements

achievements. It is the highest decoration that a military career can obtain. The withdrawal of these decorations involves disgrace in proportion to the honor conferred in bestowing them.

This decree is the last of a long series of indignities put upon Li Hung-chang by his imperial master. His enemies have bitterly attacked him and, unfortunately for China, these attacks have received a favorable hearing. The viceroy has received peremptory and insulting messages from the throne. He has been accused of nepotism. His son-in-law,

Chang

Chang Pei-lun, has been ordered out of the viceregal yamên. His nephew, Chang of the armory department, has been dismissed from office and is reported to have committed suicide. The fact that his son, Li Ching-fang, was minister to Japan some time ago was also urged against him.

Many friends, whose careers the viceroy has made, have turned upon him. Attacking him they hope to save themselves. He remains, however, defiant, pointedly defending himself. He explains the charge of nepotism by asserting that appointments in war are not governed by the same

same principle as those made in peace, that in confidential positions he must have men upon whom he can rely.

It is certain that the Viceroy, during his long exercise of a great and almost arbitrary power, has made many enemies. These are now coming forward against him. Some of them are to be found in the Tsungli Yamên, which body has been treated by him, on many occasions, with scant courtesy. It is asserted, also, that he has offended the emperor by encroaching on the imperial prerogatives.

His conflict between the throne and the foremost statesman

of

of China may be fraught
with the gravest consequences.
There seems no one in this
empire capable of conducting
the war except Li Hung-chang.
Should the Emperor allow him
to be crushed, it would be
impossible to fill his place. To
him alone it is due that
China has even the semblance
of a modern army and navy
to oppose to the forces of Japan.
Should, on the other hand,
the Viceroy adopt an attitude
of defiance and maintain
himself against the Emperor
and his enemies, great encouragement
would be afforded to the
countless elements of unrest
amongst

amongst the Chinese people ever latently hostile to the Manchu rule.

Whatever the result of the Emperor's attack may be, the time of making it is most inopportune. The present crisis should be met by a government free from all danger of internal dissension.

In view of the importance of this subject, I telegraphed you this date as follows:

"Imperial decree published
"here last night reproaches
"Viceroy Li's misconduct of
"the war. Emperor deprives
"him of his two chief
"decorations and threatens

further

"further punishment".

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

Decree from Gazette of 17th

Sept. 1894.

Enclosure in No. 1968.

A Decree issued by His Majesty the Emperor published in the Manuscript Gazette of September 17th 1894.

The Japanese revoked the treaty existing between the two countries and commenced hostilities and forced their way into Korea. Entertaining a kindly feeling toward our suzerain state we, therefore, despatched our forces to Korea to punish our foe.

Li Hung-chang, Minister Superintendent of Northern Trade was appointed General Director in the management of our military affairs and he should have given thorough consideration of the general interests at stake make the best possible arrangements and satisfy all necessary requirements. He alone was responsible for the trust imposed upon him. But he has

not

not been prompt in the despatch of troops at opportune times and a long period has elapsed without successful achievements. He has failed to properly discharge the duties of his office.

Let him, therefore, be deprived of the Three Eyed Peacock Feather and the Yellow Riding Jacket as a light form of punishment. He must, however, make an effort and earnestly awake to action and give orders urging the officers in command of our forces in the various places in Korea to exert themselves, pursue and join battle with the enemy as an atonement for the errors committed.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

From Mr. Denby, Peking
September 19, 1894.

Graham,
Washington.

SEP 20 1894
DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

Confirmed
Do. dept. 94. 7m

Naval engagement off North Korea seventeenth five Chinese three Japanese vessels reported destroyed fleet at port Arthur.

Denby.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
File
NOV 1 1894

No 1969.

Legation of the United States

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, September 19th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Military movements in Korea.

Synopsis.

Confirms telegram of 18th instant reporting that the Japanese army has surrounded Chinese army in Korea, cutting off telegraphic communication northwards.

№ 1969.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 19th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my cipher telegram of the 18th instant as follows:

"Eighteenth September. Telegraphic "communication between Peking "and Chinese army in Korea "cut off by Japanese. The last "reports [are] Japanese effected "on the 14th surrounding of Chinese "army which is starving.

Confidentially

"Confidentially am informed
"that Emperor has attempted
"to extort a sum of money
"from the Viceroy at Tientsin".
It seems that a crisis in
the military operations in Korea
is now at hand. According
to all the information available
here, the present outlook is
decidedly unfavorable to the
Chinese forces.

The importance of this crisis
is increased by the ill feeling
between the Emperor and Li
Hung-chang. I have learned
from private sources, and I
have been officially informed
by the United States Consul at
Tientsin, that the Emperor
recently

recently sent an agent to the viceroy offering him peace and friendship in consideration of the sum of 400.000 taels. This agent was dismissed with the message that the viceroy would not give one cent.

Remarkable as this story is, it comes from reliable sources, & U.S. Consul at Tientsin ? and, if not strictly true, its doubtless founded somewhat upon fact. Further developments in the disagreement between the viceroy and the Emperor are awaited with interest. If important they will be promptly communicated to you.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

File

№ 1970.

Legation of the United States-

Peking, September 19th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

OCT 31 1894

Subject

Naval engagement near Korea

Synopsis

Confirms telegram this date

No 1970.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 19th 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of this date as follows:

"Nineteenth September. Naval
"engagement off North Korea
"seventeenth - Five Chinese
"three Japanese vessels reported
"destroyed - Chinese fleet at
"Port Arthur".

In this engagement all the

Chinese

Chinese ships were reported
injured and the admiral
wounded.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d' Affaires ad interim.

No 1971.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 19th, 1894.

— Mr. Charles Denby Jr. —

to the

— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —

Enclosing duplicate statement of account for Telegrams from August 13th to August 25th, 1894.

No. 1971. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 19th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to
enclose duplicate statement of
my account for official telegrams
from August 13th to August 25th
1894.

1/1971

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'affaires ad interim

T.M.

Enclosure: Duplicate statement as above.

2ND ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Fld
OCT 31 1894
No 1972.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 20th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The death of Mr. Uglee

Synopsis

The Peking Gazette of the 16th instant details the punishments inflicted on the soldiers found guilty of killing Mr. Uglee, a Scotch missionary, at Liao Yang in Manchuria, on the 10th ultimo.

No 1972.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 20th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No 1940, of the 24th ultimo, I had the honor to report the assault made upon Mr. Bylie by Manchu soldiers, at Liao Yang in Manchuria, from the effects of which assault Mr. Bylie died.

In the manuscript Peking Gazette of the 16th instant appeared

a

a memorial from two high officials of Manchuria reporting to the throne the punishment inflicted on the guilty parties in this case. One man, the reputed murderer, has been decapitated; four others convicted of attacking the missionary premises have been banished; two officers in charge of the soldiers have been degraded and the losses to the missionaries and to their premises have been, or are to be, made good. Another man, who had been found guilty of causing trouble to the missionaries, has been flogged and an arrow pierced through his ear to mark him forever

as

as a bad character.

Thus closes another chapter in the long list of anti-missionary outrages in this country.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
File
NOV 1 1894

No 1973.

out

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, September 20th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The treaty between Great Britain and Japan

Synopsis

The treaty between Great Britain and Japan is adversely criticised by foreigners in China

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№ 1973.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 20th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State.

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the treaty of commerce and navigation between Japan and Great Britain, signed at London on the 16th day of July, and ratified at Tokyo on the 25th August, has been unfavorably received by the foreign press and by the foreign residents in China. It is characterized by

the

the <u>Shanghai Mercury</u> as a surrender of all that is valuable in British intercourse with Japan "for the shady "privilege of residing in any "part of the dominion of the "Mikado". The same journal in another issue says "Lord "Kimberly has succeeded in "reversing the traditions of "England, and has for a shadow "bartered away the rights and "privileges of British subjects "not only in Japan but in the "East generally."

The ground of the hostility to this treaty amongst foreigners in China is their natural aversion to anything which

which may lead, however
remotely, to an abandonment
of extraterritoriality here.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Filed
No 1974.
OCT 31 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 21st, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Compilation of Chinese treaties

Synopsis

No such work published by

the Chinese Customs Service.

№ 1974.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 21st, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch № 907, of the 3rd ultimo, directing me to forward to the Department a compilation of the treaties between China and foreign countries, understood to have been recently prepared by the Inspector General of Customs.

In 1887, a volume called

Treaties

Treaties, Conventions, etc., between China and Foreign Powers, from 1689 to 1886, was prepared by the customs, but never published. The manuscript copy is used in the customs office in Peking.

In 1891, there was issued from the customs press, Shanghai, a volume entitled Treaties, Regulations, etc., between Corea and Other Powers, 1876-1889, which gives in chronological order, in the languages in which they were drawn up and with English translations, the treaties made by Corea, and many other state papers refering to the foreign relations of that kingdom. This book is for sale

at

at Shanghai. A copy will be forwarded if desired.

No other compilation of treaties has been published by the customs.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
No 1975.
OCT 31 1894

Papers ordered
Nov 1. to June 30 95
Bu. Accounts.

Mr Kreckel wrote for
& returned to Bk
Bureau -

OCT 31 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 21st, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Nov 1 1894

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Asks for newspapers.

No 1975.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 21st, 1891.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to request that there be sent to this Legation, during the remainder of this fiscal year, the Washington Post and the New York Weekly Nation.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
File
NOV 1 1894

No 1976.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 22nd, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Recent military and naval engagements.

Synopsis

Details of battle at Ping Yang, Korea, on the 15th and of the naval engagement near the Yalu River, on the 17th September.

No 1976.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 22nd 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that the vague news, which reached Peking some days ago, of a battle at Ping Yang, in Korea, on the 15th instant, has now been confirmed.

It is reported that 16.000 out of 20.000 Chinese troops engaged were killed or captured

and

and the remainder dispersed.
The strength of the Japanese forces engaged is unknown but they are supposed to have numbered about 40.000.

The Viceroy Li is said to take a most despondent view of the outlook.

Some details of the naval engagement reported in my telegram of the 19th instant are also at hand. The events preceding this engagement were about as follows. On the 13th instant, the Chinese fleet, twelve ships in number, left Wei Hai Wei for Port Arthur, and on the 15th conveyed from there some four thousand

Soldiers

soldiers to the Korean coast, in the vicinity of the Yalu River. The troops are stated to have been safely landed when, at about noon on the 17th instant, the Japanese fleet approached and engaged the Chinese squadron. The battle lasted until 5 p.m., when, for some unexplained reason, the Japanese withdrew and the Chinese sailed for Port Arthur. Every ship of the Chinese squadron is reported badly damaged, so much so that the protection of the Gulf of Pechili is supposed to be no longer possible.

Baron von Hanneken, a German Military officer attached

to

to the staff of the Chinese Admiral Ting, reports that in evolution, tactics and discipline the Japanese showed themselves superior but that the bravery of the Chinese was unquestionable. Baron von Hanneken was wounded, as was also Admiral Ting, and several foreigners, amongst whom one American, were killed.

? The losses of the Japanese are known to have included three ships sunk, but no detailed information is at hand. The Chinese lost by sinking the Chao Yang, 1350 tons, built at Newcastle in 1881, and the two Armstrong steel

steel cruisers of 2.300 tons, Chih Yuen and Ching Yuen. The Yang Wei, sister ship to the Chao Yang, is ashore and partly burned. The Chi Yuen, at first supposed to be sunk, has arrived safely at Port Arthur. She made the fifth of the five reported lost in my telegram.

No newspaper reports of these battles are as yet at hand.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
File
NOV 1 1894

No 1977.

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT OF STATE

Peking, September 24th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Execution of an alleged spy.

Synopsis

The Japanese Ishikawa Yoichi shot and then beheaded at Tientsin on the 20th instant.

№ 1977.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 24th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State.

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that the Japanese, Ishikawa Yoichi, refered to in my despatch № 1952, of the 5th instant, as having been arrested at Tientsin as a spy, was executed, on the 20th instant, at that city. He was first shot and then beheaded. A Chinaman named Lin,

a

a secretary in the employ of the Ordnance Department, who was convicted of having given information to Ishikawa, was also beheaded. Lin confessed and repeated his confession in Ishikawa's presence.

Notwithstanding the suspicious circumstances surrounding this unfortunate Japanese, the severity of the punishment inflicted upon him is greatly to be regretted. No Japanese troops were then upon the soil of China. The war was being conducted entirely abroad and on the sea. The penalty of death was out of all proportion to the crime and

out

out of all proportion to the injury which the alleged spy's reports could have been able to inflict. The Japanese Government had assured China that Ishikawa was not a spy, and it is feared they will be tempted to retaliation for what will be regarded as an unjust sentence.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
No. 19198.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 6 1895

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATONS.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 24th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Dr Ashmore's land case.

Synopsis

Dr Ashmore still remains dispossessed of his land at Swatow, but the Yamên has consented to a joint investigation as to title, and Mr. Denby hopes now the case will be settled in his favor.

№ 1978.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 21st, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State.

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In my despatch № 1852, of the 17th May, I had the honor to report to you the attempt of a mercantile guild at Suatow to obtain unlawful possession of a piece of land belonging to Dr Ashmore, an American citizen.

This case has presented unexpected difficulties and has been the subject of much

correspondence

correspondence and several interviews with the Yamēn. The great difficulty has been to come to an understanding as to facts. The reports made by the United States Consul at Canton and those made by the local officials at Swatow did not agree. Under these conditions, a settlement of the case was impossible.

Some progress, however, has been made. The Yamēn, in a recent despatch, admitted that whatever Dr Ashmore's rights may be the guild has no title. I thereupon pointed out to them that what was left to be decided was simply a

matter

matter of fact, viz. Has Dr
Ashmore title to the land or
not?

This question can only be
decided at Swatow after a
careful survey of the land and
an examination of the documents.
On the representations of this
Legation, the Yamen have
consented to a joint inquiry to
be held at Swatow by the
local authorities and by the
United States consul at Canton.
I have written the consul and
Dr Ashmore to cooperate with
the local authorities, bringing
forward all their proofs of
title, and to prepare a report
of the case in which both sides
will

will agree. When such a report is made, I am confident the Yamën will order a restitution to Dr Ashmore of the land of which he is unjustly deprived.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim

No 1979.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 25th, 1894.

— Mr. Denby's Despatch —

to the

— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —

Enclosing duplicate statement of telegram account from August 26th to August 31st, 1894.

No 1979. One enclosure

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 25th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose
1979 duplicate statement of my account for
official telegrams from August 26th @
August 31st, 1894.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

T. M.

Enclosure: Duplicate statement as above.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
File
NOV 1 1894

No 1980

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT OF STATE

Peking, September 25th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Alliance between Japan and Corea.

Synopsis

Encloses copy of an alliance said to have been entered into between Corea and Japan.

One enclosure.

No 1980.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 25th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

1
1980

enclose, herewith, a clipping from the North China Daily News of the 17th instant, being a translation of an offensive and defensive alliance against China, reported to have been entered into by Corea and Japan.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

Clipping as above.

Enclosure in No 1980.

Clipping from North China Daily News

Sept 17-1894.

THE JAPAN-COREA CONVENTION.

The following is a translation of the Convention reported to have been entered into at Seoul on the 26th ult. It is translated from the *Official* [illegible]:—

The Governments of the two countries—Dai Nippon and Dai Chosen—have stood in a position to help each other, offensively and defensively, *vis-à-vis* China, since, on the 25th of the 7th month in the 27th year of Meiji, according to the Japanese calendar, and the 23rd of the 6th month in the 503rd year since the establishment of the country, according to the Corean calendar, the Corean Government entrusted to the Japanese Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary at Seoul, Corea, on its behalf, the task of expelling the Chinese troops from the country. By reason thereof the undersigned Ministers of the two countries, being invested with plenipotentiary authority, have agreed upon the following articles, in order to make the fact mentioned evident, and at the same time to ensure the co-operation of the two countries:—

Article I—This convention has for its object the expulsion of Chinese troops from Corean territory; the establishment of the independence and self-government of Corea on a firmer basis, and the promotion of the mutual interests of the two countries, Japan and Corea.

Article II—Japan shall undertake the work of meeting China in such offensive or defensive operations as may be necessary, Corea, on her part, undertaking to provide every convenience she can for the movement of Japanese troops, and the commissariat.

Article III—This convention shall be abolished upon the conclusion of a Treaty of peace with China.

In witness whereof the Ministers Plenipotentiary of the two countries have hereto affixed their names and seals.

The 26th day of the 8th month of the 27th year of Meiji, Dai Nippon.

OTORI KEISUKE,
Minister Plenipotentiary and
Envoy Extraordinary.

The 26th day of the 7th month of the 503rd year since the Establishment of the Country, Dai Chosen.

KIM YUN-SIK,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Kobe, 12th September.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
FM
NOV 1 1894

No 1981.

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT of STATE

Peking, September 25th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The Corean Embassy at Peking.

Synopsis

A Corean Embassy, bearing gifts and congratulations to the Empress Dowager from the King of Corea, arrives at Peking.

No 1981.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 25th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report, as interesting at the present juncture, the arrival at Peking of a Corean Embassy, charged with presents and congratulations from the King of Corea for the Emperor and the Empress Dowager, on the occasion of the Empress' birthday anniversary.

This

This embassy left Corea before the beginning of the war. It came by land, arriving at Tientsin on the 6th instant and at Peking about one week later. The embassy consists of two ministers and about two hundred retainers. They have received much attention from the court and are occasionally mentioned in the Gazette as having been invited to theatricals etc., by His Majesty.

Corea having concluded an offensive and defensive alliance with Japan against China, the embassy now occupies a peculiar position. It must be said, however, that

to

to maintain a congratulatory mission at the court of China, while entering into an offensive and defensive alliance with her enemy, would violate none of the traditions of Corean diplomacy.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
SEP 28 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 28 1894

Secretary of State.
SEP 27 1894

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

From Peking

Sept 26, 1894.

Received Sep. 26 M.

Confirmed 29 Sept 94 M

Gresham
Washington.

Imperial decree published last night
Cancels Extraordinary Ceremonials
in honor of the Empress birthday
because of the war.

Denby.

Deciphered
Copy made 9.20 A.M.
P.K.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
File
NOV 1 1894

No 1982.

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, September 26th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Celebration of Empress' birthday.

Synopsis

Confirms telegram announcing that the extraordinary ceremonials connected with the celebration of the Empress Dowager's sixtieth birthday have been cancelled.

No 1982.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 26th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of this date as follows:

"Twenty sixth September

"Imperial decree published

"last night cancels extraordinary

"ceremonials in honor of

"Empress' birthday because of

"the war."

This decree, which appeared in

in the manuscript* Peking Gazette of the 25th instant, was issued by the emperor at the instance of the empress dowager. The emperor states that he had repeatedly urged her majesty to permit the programme to be carried out in conformity with the precedents created during the reigns of the emperors Kang Hsi (1662-1723) and Kien Lung (1736-1796). The empress dowager, however, remained firm in her refusal.

All those ceremonials which were to have been celebrated at Wan Shou Shan, her country residence, are, therefore, cancelled. These ceremonials

* The manuscript gazette is entirely written by hand. It appears at night, giving in advance the decrees and memorials to be issued the following morning.

were to have been, as reported in this Legation's despatch No 1812, of the 20th February last, of the most gorgeous description. To defray the expenses thereof arrangements had been made for the collection of a sum estimated at thirty million taels. Instead of the splendid spectacles promised, her majesty's birthday will now be celebrated in the palace in Peking in the ordinary way.

This action of the Empress is supposed to have been taken in conformity with the advice of the censors. It is believed that repeated

memorials

memorials have been presented by them pointing out the inconsistency of such celebrations with the existence of a disastrous foreign war. The immense sums that will be saved by this change of programme will materially aid the prosecution of military operations and will probably save, for a time at least, resort to a foreign loan. The self-denial of the empress will make a good impression on the people. This step, however, is a great blow to China's pride and indicates a realization of the serious character of the present crisis.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' Affaires ad interim.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
OCT 31 1894

File

Omit

No 1983.

NOV 1 1894

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
OCT 31 1894
DEPT OF STATE

Peking, September 27th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Assassination of Kim-ok-Kiun

Synopsis

Details of a celebrated political murder at Shanghai in March last, an event made important by the subsequent war in Corea.

No 1983.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 27th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

A small paragraph in a recent issue of the North China Daily News recalls attention to the murder, at Shanghai, last spring, of Kim-ok-Kiun, the notorious Corean conspirator. This murder was the last act in a long story of conspiracy, intrigue and assassination, beginning in

Corea

No 1983.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 27th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

A small paragraph in a recent issue of the North China Daily News recalls attention to the murder, at Shanghai, last spring, of Kim-ok-Kiun, the notorious Corean conspirator. This murder was the last act in a long story of conspiracy, intrigue and assassination, beginning in

Corea

Corea ten years ago. It was not reported by this Legation to the Department at the time, but subsequent events have given it added significance and it is not now too late to bring it to your notice.

The paragraph referred to is as follows:

"Under strong pressure from "the Japanese, posthumous honors "and nobility have been granted to "Kim-ok-Kiun".

The history of Kim-ok-Kiun is full of interest. He was a Corean noble of illustrious family, having the rank of Marquis. Returning from a visit to Japan in 1875, where he had been

been struck by the evidences of civilization and of power which he had seen, he became an ardent advocate of progress. Corea was at that time divided into two political parties, one favoring China and desiring to keep their country dependent, the other in favor of progress and autonomy. In this latter Kim-ok-Kiun was the most active leader.

Although he held a high position and was well known at home, it was not until 1884 that he became widely known abroad. His connection with the bloody and unsuccessful coup d'état on December 4th

7

of that year brought him into notoriety. The events which led up to this coup d'état are fully set forth in the reports of the representatives of the United States at Seoul at the time* Here it is only proposed to deal briefly with the sequel to it.

On the evening of the 4th of December, 1884, Prince Min, head of the home office at Seoul, was entertaining at dinner some foreign and native officials, amongst whom was Kim-ok-Kiun. The dinner was in honor of the opening of the new post-office building. While it was in progress, an alarm

of

* See Foreign Relations, 1885, p. 335 et seq.

of fire was given. Prince Min left the room to make inquiries concerning it and returned almost immediately, bleeding from seven wounds. Following upon this attack, rebellion broke out in Seoul. Yi Kim obtained possession of the person of the King, and invited the Japanese Minister and his body guard to the palace, under pretence of a royal message. He then sent singly for the ministers of state, seven of whom in succession were assassinated by him.

He thereupon formed a new government, but the new ministers were all but three

killed

killed the same day. The Corean populace and the Chinese troops then combined against the conspirators and the Japanese, who were compelled, on the 7th, to evacuate Seoul and retreat to Chemulpo.

Kim-ok-Kiun made his way to Japan, where he is stated to have lived as a pensioner of the Japanese Government. A price was known to have been set upon his head by the Corean King, though it is alleged that the motive therefor was less a desire of inflicting punishment than a wish to destroy the possessor of compromising secrets. For nine years Kim lived in

safety

safety in Japan. It is stated that lately he had become restless. He wished to visit Russia but was warned against doing so.

Amongst those implicated in the <u>coup d'état</u> was a family named Hong. When the conspiracy failed, all the members of this family were supposed to have been killed. One, however, Hong-Jiyong-Ou by name, escaped. He, presuming that the best way to regain the confidence of the court would be to bring about the death of Kim, determined years ago upon the assassination of his former chief. In 1889, he went to Tokyo as a Korean

refugee

refugee, and tried to induce him to return to Corea, alleging that the time was favorable for stirring up a revolt. Failing in this, he went to Europe where, for three years, he was a familiar figure in literary and social circles. His expenses are said to have been defrayed by the King of Corea.

In 1893, he returned to Japan and renewed friendly relations with his intended victim. Finally, under some pretext, asserted to have been an invitation to visit China extended by the son of Li Hung-chang, formerly minister to Japan, he induced

Kim

him to come under an assumed name to Shanghai.

On the 27th of last March, there landed at that city from the steamer Saikio Maru three men dressed as foreigners, looking like well-to-do Japanese and bearing Japanese assumed names. They were Kim-ok-Kiun, the victim, Hong-Jiyong-Ou, the assassin, and Woo Po-jin, a linguist at the Chinese Legation in Tokyo, whose connection with subsequent events is not clearly indicated. They repaired to a Japanese hotel in the Anglo-American concession.

On the following day, at about three in the afternoon,

the

the patience of the assassin was rewarded. As Kim was lying in bed partially dressed, Hong shot him once through the head and once through the body. He rushed from the room but a third shot left him dead in the hall.

The affair had been carefully arranged. The linguist and the murdered man's Japanese servant had been sent away on some errand. The murderer made his escape. He was arrested two days later at Woosung, some ten or twelve miles from Shanghai, by a Chinese detective in the employ of the foreign municipal police.

Joe

He was at once examined before the Mixed Court, an English assessor and a Chinese magistrate sitting together.

The treaties between China and Corea provide that when Koreans commit offences in China, Corea shall have jurisdiction. Hong was accordingly delivered to the taotai at Shanghai, to be dealt with as his government might direct. Subsequently he was sent on a Chinese gunboat, in charge of a special Korean envoy to Corea, where he has received an exalted official position and other rewards.

At the request of Corea, Kim's body was delivered up

to

to her authorities. It was decapitated and quartered and exposed in all the Corean provinces. The Japanese invasion, however, has effected a somewhat tardy atonement for these indignities. He has now received nobility and honors, posthumous it is true, from the land that rewarded his assassin.

It is difficult to say what part this episode may have had in increasing in Japan hatred of the Chinese and jealousy at their interference in Corea. Kim was regarded by the Japanese as a patriot, and great indignation was

felt

felt by them at his murder.
This may not have been
without influence in hastening
the war.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

Dip

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
NOV 24 1894

File

No 1984.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 30th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 13 1894
DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 24 1894

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Prince Kung, President of Yamên.

Synopsis

Prince Kung nominated President of the Tungli Yamên. Confirms telegram of this date to above effect.

One enclosure.

No 1984.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 30th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of this date as follows:

"Prince Kung is appointed "President [of the] Foreign "Office and Chief of the "Admiralty. Disembarkation "of Japanese troops on Gulf "Coast anticipated."

I enclose, herewith, a translation of

1/1984

of the decree promulgated last night making the above appointment.

Prince Kung is the uncle of the Emperor, being the elder brother of the Emperor's father, who died in 1892. He was for many years President of the Foreign Office, but was removed from that position by an imperial decree of the 8th April 1884.* While in office he commanded the respect and goodwill of the foreign representatives. Gratification is expressed at his return to power.

It is not known whether Prince Ching will retire from the

* See Mr. Young to Mr. Frelinghuysen No. 464 June 18. 1884.

the Yamên or will remain to
cooperate with Prince Kung,
to whom he is inferior in
rank and influence.

This appointment was
dictated by the threatened
invasion of the Japanese, reported
in the latter part of my telegram.
In case of the success of this
movement, it will devolve
upon Prince Kung to make
terms with the enemy.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

Translation of decree from Gazette
Sept. 29. 1894.

Enclosure in No 1984.

A decree issued by the Emperor by command of Her Majesty the Empress Dowager, published in the Manuscript Gazette, September 29th 1894.

Prince Kung (I-hsin) had audience of us today. We noticed that although he had not fully recovered from his sickness, he is not exhausted nor is he wanting in spirits and energy.

Let him be appointed President of our Department of Foreign Affairs and also Chief Director of the Board of Admiralty and let him act with our other officials in the management of naval affairs.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
NOV 24 1894

File

No 1985.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 30th, 1894.

INDEXING BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 13 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 24 1894

Subject

Threatened landing of Japanese army.

Synopsis

A large Japanese force about to land on the China coast.

No 1985.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 30. 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington; D. C.

Sir:

In a telegram of this date I had the honor to inform you of an anticipated disembarkation of Japanese soldiers upon the coast of the Gulf of Pe-chi-li.

I have been informed that sixty four Japanese transports, bearing fifty thousand soldiers, have already left Hiroshima,

Japanese

Japanese military headquarters, for the China coast. This report was confirmed by a telegram received by the Inspector General of Customs in which it was stated that immense forces in two fleets have already put to sea. It is supposed that an attempt will be made to land at some point in this province, or in Shantung, during the next few days. Large numbers of rudely armed Chinese soldiers are concentrating at points along the coast supposed to be threatened.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

From Peking

September 30, 1894.

Received M.

Confirmed 3 Oct 94

Gresham

Washington.

Prince Kung is appointed President (of the) Foreign Office and chief of the Admiralty. Disembarkation Japanese troops on the Gulf Coast anticipated.

Denby.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

OCT 3 1894

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. by Number and File.
NOV 24 1894

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

No 1986.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 30th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
NOV 13 1894
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DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 24 1894

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Defence of Americans in Peking

Synopsis

On Mr. Denby's representations the Yamên accepts the responsibility of the protection of Americans in Peking.

No 1986.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 30th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that there has recently existed in Peking such a feeling of uneasiness amongst the American missionaries, in view of possible popular disturbances on account of the war, that I felt it my duty to obtain from the Yamên some assurances of their safety.

On

On the 19th instant, in a personal interview, I stated to the Yamên that there prevailed among the people many rumors of an anti-foreign character; that hostility to Japanese seemed inclined to become hostility to foreigners in general. I told them that if they considered it advisable, I would recommend all the American residents to leave the city, and take refuge at Tientsin or Shanghai, but that if they remained here it must be with an understanding that their protection was accepted by the Yamên as a responsibility.

The ministers promptly replied

replied, accepting the responsibility of the protection of all Americans in the city and urging them to remain at their posts. They promised to give additional orders to the police in the matter, and to post proclamations at all American mission chapels, of which a list was given them.

It is to be hoped that these measures will guard us against any local disturbances.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

COPIED FOREIGN RELATIONS

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

NOV 24 1894

No. 1987.

Legation of the United States.

INDEXED BUREAU RECD. NOV 13 1894 DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, October 3rd, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Ack'd 29 Nov. '94. M

Subject

Comments on the war.

Synopsis

Attitude of Chinese Government towards foreigners. Probable good effect on populace towards foreigners. Difficulties and incapacity of China

No 1987.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 3rd, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that this Legation, more than fully occupied in the management of particular matters of business, and having so small a staff, consisting only of Mr. Cheshire and myself, has been unable to enter, in correspondence with the Department, as fully as desirable upon some of the

the general aspects of the war.

x x x x x x x x x x x

This defect is not, however, of great importance at Peking. The Chinese Government, only able to vaguely surmise the secret motives which impelled Japan to hostilities, has been from the beginning on the defensive. It is not necessary here, in explanation of the war, to examine into deep political considerations nor to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of a far-reaching foreign policy. As far as the Chinese Government is concerned, the war is a mere question of fact: they are attacked and they defend themselves. It is probable

that

that they would have accepted
at any time an honorable
compromise.

At the outbreak of hostilities
the statesmen of China manifested
a laudable intention to gain
the approval of foreign powers.
They have shown themselves
willing to accede to any
reasonable demands, and
have made every effort to inflict
as little inconvenience as
possible upon the neutrals
in their borders and upon
neutral shipping. Those defensive
measures of which we have had
to complain, as the blockade
of Ningpo and Shanghai and
the proposed examination of

men-

men-of-war, were dictated by fear and were not put forward in any spirit of disregard of neutral rights.

The present crisis has already had a good effect on the status of foreigners in the official and popular estimation. We are often appealed to for information and advice, and our superiority in all practical matters is freely recognized. A significant instance of the changed attitude towards us was shown in a recent imperial decree, removing an official from office at Tientsin, in which, amongst other charges against him, he is said by the emperor "to have made himself ridiculous

"ridiculous to foreigners". Such a statement would never have appeared in an official paper a few months ago.

Everything needful has been done for our security here and elsewhere. Two attacks by rowdies have been made recently on American missionaries in this city, but no injury was suffered and measures have been taken to prevent the recurrence of such events. The recent examinations, in which seventeen thousand students took part, passed off without any anti-foreign demonstration whatever.

× × × × × × × × × ×

As to the prospects of the war, it is difficult to come to any conclusion

conclusion. If the Japanese fore now at sea effects, as seems probable, a landing, the outlook for China will not be hopeful. Amongst the Chinese soldiers insubordination is rife. The armies refuse to march to points to which they are ordered and the troops on transports, in disregard of the orders of their superiors, alter at will the destination of the vessels. Cowardice and mutiny have been manifested on their men-of-war and have been in some instances, met with exemplary punishment. The Captain of the ship Chi Yuan, who fled with his vessel during the naval battle of the 17th instant, was

beheaded

beheaded at Port Arthur on the 25th.

The situation is complicated by rumors of rebellion and conspiracy in the south. The celebrated Ko Lao Hui*, the supposed instigator of the anti-foreign disturbances in 1891, is again active. Its agents are at work in Anhui and in Honan. The administration, also, of the commissariat and other branches of the service connected with the purchase and forwarding of military supplies is known to be corrupt. The tabtai at Tientsin is charged with manipulation of the rice market for personal gain. Charges implicating high officials

*Political secret society.

officials of the sale of military information are freely made. There is a want of harmony and of confidence between the throne and the provincial authorities, and those are insulted and degraded whose hands should be in every way strengthened.

China on this occasion has as usual been taken unprepared. Her arms are insufficient and her military stores are said to be almost exhausted. The large majority of her troops are provided only with matchlocks and companies of cavalry were seen, the other day, in the vicinity of Peking, armed with bows. Japan, on the other hand, was thoroughly ready.

Not

Not only was every possible
arrangement made in her own
country, but Japanese military
agents were familiar with
all the details of China's resources.
They know the topography of her
country and the outlines of,
and approaches to, her coast,
with the utmost minuteness.
China, in fact, has shown
nothing but incapacity and has
met with nothing but reverses.
She has exceeded the anticipations
of her most pessimistic critics.

The effect of this war, except
in the remote contingency of
dissolution of the empire, must
be beneficial to China. The foremost
minds already see the necessity
for

for a renovation of her methods and the desirability of entering on the path of western civilization. Such a step on her part will benefit not only herself but the whole world.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

Dup

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject & commund.
aab
NOV 24 1894

No 1988.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATONS.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 3rd, 1894.

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NOV 13 1894
DEPT OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

NOV 24 1894

Secretary of State.

Ackd 26 Nov. 94. m

Subject

Danger to missionaries in Peking

Synopsis

Mr. Denby advises missionaries in Peking to send away their wives and children, in view of possible dangers arising from approach of Japanese, and to take other steps dictated by prudence.

№ 1988.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 3rd, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch №: 1985, of the 30th ultimo, I had the honor to inform you of the anticipated landing of a Japanese army on the coast of the Gulf of Pe-chi-li.

When this news reached Peking, some alarm was felt by the foreign residents for their safety. It is supposed that if

the

the Japanese succeed in landing, and there is no reason to anticipate that they will fail, they will march upon and take this city. Should that occur, the danger to be apprehended would be an uprising of the disorderly elements, after the inevitable defeat of the hordes of China's barbarous soldiery and before the Japanese have entered the gates.

It devolved, under these circumstances, upon those in authority to take steps for the welfare of their fellow nationals and those under their control.

Sir Robert Hart, Inspector General of Customs, on Saturday morning

morning, the 29th ultimo, took the initiative by transfering from Peking to southern ports all foreign employees with wives or children. On Sunday, the following day, I called a meeting of all the gentlemen of the American missions, at 2 o'clock, at this Legation. At that hour they assembled, about twenty five in number. All the facts in my possession were laid before them. I stated that while the present crisis might pass without untoward incident, we might be involved in great dangers and difficulties. Pointing out that I had no authority to dictate to them, I gave it as

my

my opinion that all who felt at all uneasy should leave the city, and strongly advised that all women and children should be sent away. No conclusion was arrived at by the missionaries as to joint action. They concurred in my opinion that it should be left to each one to do as he saw fit.

A number have seen proper to depart, a party of ten or more leaving today. As the roads from here to Tientsin are occupied by soldiers, I wrote the Yamen asking that orders be given along the route that no molestation or annoyance be

be offered by them. A telegraphic request to the same effect was sent to the viceroy Li Hung-chang, in order to secure the taking of proper measures at that end of the line.

During the last two days I have visited the mission stations more removed from the vicinity of the foreign legations, and have urged their occupants to either remove to houses in the two large missionary compounds in this vicinity, or, at least, to send their wives and children thither. Thus located they would not only have the safety of numbers but would be more easily reached

in

in case it became necessary to go to their assistance. Most of them acted upon the suggestion.

Some few wished to come at once and take up their residence in this Legation. They were informed that while the gates of the Legation would never be closed on any American citizen seeking refuge in time of immediate danger, it would be impossible to fill our rooms with men, women and children who were not in any way menaced at present and who, once here, would probably remain some months, to the utter obstruction of public business, and for whom, for

that

that matter, excellent quarters could be found elsewhere.

On the 2nd instant, the British Minister issued a notice to the British missionaries and other citizens in this vicinity strongly advising that their wives and children be immediately sent away.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Ack by subject. Typed
NOV 20 1894

Jack Nov 22

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No 1989.

NOV 21 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 4th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Mileage of witnesses in Consular Courts

Synopsis

Mr. Denby instructs the United States consul at Tientsin that the consul is not obliged to assess the full charge of 15¢ per mile, when greatly in excess of actual expense of journey.

No 1989.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 4th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that the United States consul at Tientsin has asked my instructions as to whether it can be left to his discretion to assess the amount of mileage to be allowed to witnesses, in cases before the consular court, somewhat in proportion to the actual expenses incurred,

or

or whether the full amount, viz 15¢ gold per mile, shall, in all cases, be paid. In a recent case before him the actual travelling expenses of witnesses were about 3^{00}, while the legal fees chargeable therefor were $27.

I have replied that, in my opinion, the allowance of "15¢ "per mile for witnesses in "consular courts is a maximum "charge not to be exceeded, but "that consuls are at liberty "to assess in the bill of costs "any less sum sufficient to cover "actual expenses incurred."

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Fll
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Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 4th, 1894.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

A Japanese student in Peking

Synopsis

Arrangements made by Mr. Denby for the departure from Peking of a Japanese student in an American Mission school.

No. 1990.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 4th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that, on the 30th of August, a Japanese, who had been for some months a student at the Methodist Mission in this city, and who had gone to Mongolia in June, for the summer vacation, returned to the mission school, ignorant of the existence of war. The missionaries were unwilling

to

to keep him on account of the strong anti-Japanese sentiment now prevailing.

To get him away from Peking was a problem of some difficulty. If he went dressed as a Japanese or as a foreigner (in foreign clothing he seemed more manifestly Japanese than ever) he would be at once set upon by a mob. If he went dressed as a Chinese, and his nationality were detected, he would be seized as a spy.

I finally resolved to frankly notify the Yamên of his presence here and to ask for a passport, or safe-conduct, for him, to Shanghai. At first, the Yamên refused

refused, stating that his presence at this time was suspicious and demanding to know what places in Mongolia he had visited. Having ultimately satisfied themselves of his innocence, they authorized me to issue a safe-conduct to him in English and Chinese, which they stamped with their seal.

He left Peking on the 25th ultimo, disguised, by my advice, as a Chinese, and arrived safely, on the 28th, on board the U. S. S. Monocacy, whose captain had consented to temporarily receive him. Here he put on foreign costume. On the

On the 29th, at daylight, he sailed on a British ship for Shanghai.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
1894

No. 1991.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 5th, 1894.

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REC'D.
NOV 19 1894
DEPT OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Seizure of ship Pathan

Synopsis

British ship Pathan seized by Chinese cruiser for carrying contraband of war. Steps taken by Mr. Denby to secure safe delivery of goods consigned to American merchants. Interesting questions raised by seizure

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No 1991.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 5th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the British ship Pathan, which cleared from New York on or about the 15th of July for Hongkong, China and Japan, was seized near the Pescadores, in the Formosa channel, on the 22nd ultimo, by the Chinese cruiser Nansheng.

The Pathan was loaded with

№ 1991.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 5th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the British ship Pathan, which cleared from New York on or about the 15th of July for Hongkong, China and Japan, was seized near the Pescadores, in the Formosa channel, on the 22nd ultimo, by the Chinese cruiser Nansheng.

The Pathan was loaded with

with a valuable cargo of American cotton goods, consigned to Shanghai, and with locomotives and railroad materials, consigned to native firms in Japan. In addition she had $45 worth of revolvers and some cartridges, consigned to a foreign firm in Japan. The Chinese were warned from Singapore of the existence of these contraband goods upon her and this led to her seizure. She was taken into the port of Kelung, in Formosa, and held there, subject to the orders of the Chinese Government, which desired, before coming to any decision as to her disposal, to search her fully

fully. The situation was complicated by a report that the steamer herself had been sold to Japan, while in mid-ocean.

On the 29th ultimo, I received a telegram from the United States Consul General at Shanghai, informing me that a large part of the Pathan's cargo was consigned to American firms, and asking that measures be taken to protect it. I, at once, went to the Yamên and asked that, whatever disposition were made of the ship and contraband goods found upon her, the neutral cargo consigned to American merchants be properly

delivered

delivered to them. The Yamên replied that their action with regard to the ship would depend upon the result of the inquiry as to her ownership, whether English or Japanese, but they undertook, in any case, to order the delivery to the Shanghai consignees of the cargo not seized as contraband.

This case suggests some interesting questions. By the Declaration of Paris of 1856, enemy's property in neutral ships cannot be captured except being contraband of war. This, however, only holds good as between subscribers to the Declaration. China is

not

not, while Japan is, among them. The conclusion seems inevitable that China is, therefore, at liberty to search neutral ships and seize all Japanese property, whether contraband or not, found thereon, while Japan can only exercise such right against neutrals who have not given their adhesion to the Declaration of Paris.

If this view be correct, all the cargo of the Pathan, whether contraband of war or not, consigned to Japanese firms, may properly be confiscated, and it was not necessary to allege the existence of contraband upon

upon her to justify her detention and search. These remarks apply to all other ships. In short, it seems that if neutral powers should allow to China the full exercise of her belligerent rights, it would be legally possible for her to effect the entire destruction of Japan's foreign commerce. Should she see fit to issue letters of marque to privateers for this purpose, she would be at liberty to do so.

The Chinese Government has never announced an intention to exercise the right of search, upon the high seas, against neutral ships bound for Japan, and

and, under your instructions, I have carefully avoided the subject in interviews or correspondence with the Yamên. Their action in the case of the Pathan, however, is a direct assertion of the right. In this action the British authorities have so far acquiesced. The ship has been allowed to proceed to Shanghai under bond, but it is not known to what terms the British and Chinese Governments will eventually come concerning her detention and search.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

Dip

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY. NOV 1894

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

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Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 8th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Protection of foreigners in Peking

Synopsis

Encloses copy of proclamation issued by Yamên, enjoining protection of Americans and other foreigners in Peking.

Three enclosures.

No 1992.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 8th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No 1986, of the 30th ultimo, I had the honor to inform you of the steps taken to impress upon the Yamên their responsibility for the protection of foreigners in Peking, and the acceptance of this responsibility by them.

I have the honor to state that the proclamations which

they

they promised to issue have now appeared. These proclamations, a translation of which is enclosed, are couched in language most calculated to have a beneficial influence on the populace. They are of enormous size and are stamped with the seal of the Commandant of the Gendarmerie. One or more copies have been posted on the walls of every missionary establishment, every Legation and every foreign residence in the city.

1/1992

I enclose, herewith, a translation of a note from the ministers in which they forward me a copy of the proclamation. In this note, they refer to the punishment which

2/1992

which has been inflicted on the assailant of two American missionaries, in a street disturbance which it was recently necessary to bring to their attention.

A copy of a note, expressing the gratitude of this Legation for the Yamên's action in these matters, is enclosed.

3
1992

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:
1. Proclamation.
2. Note from Yamên, Oct. 6. 1894.
3. Note to Yamên, Oct. 8. 1894.

Enclosure 1 in No 1992.

Proclamation issued by the Yamên of the General Commandant of the Gendarmerie for general information:

Whereas, since the treaties of commerce between China and foreign countries were entered into, peace has long continued to reign, the reigning dynasty has regarded all foreigners with equal kindness, making no discrimination against any.

The Japanese, however, have now abrogated their treaty and commenced hostilities. They are employing their forces on our coasts. This, however, is a matter that does not involve foreigners of other nationalities. It is China's duty to take special care in giving protection to missionaries and their churches in Peking. But there have been loafers who have circulated rumors for the purpose of creating trouble in the

vicinity

vicinity of the Ch Tiao lane, inside the Anting gate, where there is an American missionary establishment. There has been much improper talking which has put the missionaries in a state of apprehension and fear and has decidedly affected the friendly relations existing. If such things occur in this locality other localities will not be free from similar rumors, and it is necessary that proclamations be issued strenuously warning the soldiery and people that they must continue to live quietly and peacefully to attend to their own affairs and not foolishly listen to wild and unfounded stories thus taking part in their circulation.-

If there be rowdies who outrage all propriety, and have no respect for anyone, and stir up a row and excite people to creating a disturbance at any missionary

establishment

establishment, the police authorities of the places concerned are hereby ordered to suppress them. Any who dare to act in disobedience of orders issued are at once to be put into fetters and brought to the Yendamenie to be rigorously punished. No leniency whatever will be shown.

Strenuous instructions were issued to the police authorities for the arrest of the rowdies who insulted and attacked the Rev. Mr. Headland and wife, outside the Chi Hua Gate. The vagabond who committed the outrage, Wang Tao-erh, has been arrested and the Yamên will administer to him vigorous punishment for the offense committed.

Let this official notice be given to all, in the hope that a state of peace and mutual good feeling may continue to prevail. The police authorities of

all

all the wards are to take action in earnest and to zealously investigate all cases. If any dare to be idle or remiss in their duty and connive at offenses committed, on ascertaining such to be the case, they will be reported for impeachment.

Let all tremblingly obey and not disregard this special proclamation.

Kuang Hsü 20 year 9 month 6 day
(Oct. 4. 1894)

Enclosure 2 in No 1992.

The Tsungli Yamēn to Mr. Denby.

Note. October 6. 1894.

Sir:

Some time since we had the honor to receive your note with reference to the assault made upon the Rev. Mr. Kendland and wife, outside the Chi Hua Gate, wherein you stated that the Yamēn had promised to cause the arrest and punishment of the leader in the affair and also to put out proclamations, but that, up to the present time you had not been informed what had been done and you requested that the Gendarmerie be urged to take action in these matters.

The Yamēn were about to address the Gendarmerie, urging that these matters be dealt with, when the Ministers received a communication from that office, stating that, in

regard

regard to the assault made upon the Rev. Mr. Headland and wife by rowdies, outside the Chi Hua Gate, and the rumors that had been circulated around the missionary establishment at the Ch'ü Jiao Hsi-tung, whereupon the issuance of proclamations has been requested, the police officers, in obedience to instructions, had apprehended one Wang Tao-erh, a rowdy, who had assaulted the missionary, and he has been severely punished and ordered to wear the cangue so that his offences may be made known to the public. Proclamations, also, have been cut and issued and sent to the local authorities concerned with instructions to have them posted at the foreign Legations and the missionary residences, as a means of repressing evil doers.

The man Wang Tao-erh above referred to is an inexperienced,

stupid

stupid fellow and the severe punishment, besides being captured, meted out to him by the Gendarmerie, should be sufficient warning to other foolish men like himself, and cause the laws to be respected.

The posting of proclamations at the various missionary establishments and other places should be sufficient to cause the people to know that they should observe the injunctions therein contained, as well as to remove all doubts and misgivings and prevent the circulation of all false rumors.

The action taken we regard as very satisfactory and proper.

We enclose, herewith, a copy in Chinese of the proclamation and request you to transmit it for the perusal and information of the foreign representatives at Peking.

Cards of Ministers enclosed.

Enclosure 3 in No. 1992.

Mr. Denby to the Tungli Yamen.

October 8th, 1894.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies:

I have the
honor to acknowledge the
receipt of your note of the 6th
instant, enclosing a copy of a
proclamation posted by the
General Commandant of the
Gendarmerie at the various American
Missionary establishments, and at
other places, in this city.

His Legation is deeply
grateful for the efforts of Your
Highness and Your Excellencies
to prevent any trouble befalling
the citizens of the United States
who are under your protection, and
for the punishment of the rowdies
who recently made an attack
upon them.

A translation of your note and

of

of the proclamation enclosed has been sent to the Honorable Secretary of State for his information.

I have etc.,

(Sig'd) Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Fle
NOV 20 1894

No 1993.

Legation of the United States.

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NOV 19 1894
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Peking, October 9th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Foochow closed for defense.

Synopsis

He Yamen notifies Mr. Denby that merchant vessels are to receive and discharge cargo outside of the river

6

One enclosure.

No. 1993.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 9th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that I am in receipt of a despatch from the Tsungli Yamen, dated the 6th instant, in which they announce that the port of Foochow has been closed for purposes of defence.

1/993

One entrance, the Wu Hu Men or Five Tigers Entrance, has been left open. A designated

place

place is specified as an anchorage for foreign and Chinese steamers, outside the mouth of the river. There they are to discharge and load cargo, which must be conveyed to and from the city of Foochow by lighters registered at the Customs, which lighters are to follow an indicated route and ply only in the daytime.

Burdensome to commerce as these regulations will doubtless prove, no objection can be made to them in view of the fact that China's naval force is utterly demoralized and entirely inadequate to the protection of her coast. Foochow is an important naval depot and

must

must be guarded at all hazards.

A copy of the Yamên's despatch has been sent to the Consul General at Shanghai and to the Consul at Foochow, for the information of American shipping.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

He Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby

No. 49, Oct 6., 1894.

Enclosure in No 1993.

The Tungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

No 49. October 6th, 1894.

Sir:

Upon the 3rd instant, the Prince and Ministers received a telegram from the Viceroy of the Min-Chê provinces, stating that he has now taken measures for the defence of the port of Foochow by establishing a blockade. But the Wu Hu Mên (Five Tiger Entrance) will be kept open, and Chinese and foreign steamers will be permitted to anchor below Sharp Peak Point, behind Ho Keang Island, and there discharge and load cargo, which must be conveyed by lighters registered at the customs. These boats must ply in and out by the route south of the Nan Kwei Hill (or Island). They are not permitted to run during the night, in order to avoid their being

fired

fired on by mistake.

In addressing this communication to the Chargé d'affaires of the United States, the Prince and Ministers request him to issue a notification for the information of United States steamers so that they may act in accordance therewith.

To

Chas. Denby Jr. Esquire

Chargé d'affaires of the United States.

Dup

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
NOV 20 1894

No. 1994.

ack. Nov 26 ✓

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Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 9th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Tientsin consul's telegram account.

Synopsis

Mr. Read wishes to charge the Legation with cost of telegrams to the Legation. Mr. Denby instructs him that his accounts for telegrams are to be sent to Washington.

No 1994.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 9th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that the United States consul at Tientsin has forwarded to this Legation an account for telegrams sent by him to the Legation, during the quarter ending September 30th, and has requested that he be reimbursed therefor. I have instructed him that I have no funds from

which

which to pay such charges and that he should render an account to Washington and draw against it, as is done by the other consuls in China.

Tientsin, being the seaport of Peking and the residence of the Viceroy Li, is an important political centre. It has been indispensable, in order to keep this Legation properly informed and to enable us to properly discharge our public duties, for Mr. Read to telegraph frequently. Every effort has, however, been made to avoid superfluous messages. Mr. Read's account for the three months, July, August and September, is only 60^{80} Mexican

Mexican, and I hope it will be approved.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

Dip
to Intell. Bur
Navy. WR.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
FH
NOV 20 1894

No 1995.

Legation of the United States.

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NOV 19 1894
DEPT OF STATE

Peking, October 10th 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The naval battle off the Yalu.

Synopsis

Description thereof by an officer engaged.

1

One enclosure.

№ 1995.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 10th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State.

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

1/995

enclose, herewith, a clipping from the North China Daily News, of the 1st instant, giving an account of the naval battle off the Yalu River, on the 17th ultimo. It is not known who is the author of this description, but it is evidently from one of the foreign officers and it is

the

the best and most technical account of the affair that has appeared.

I am informed from reliable foreign sources that the Chinese squadron, which is now at Port Arthur, is entirely demoralized. The repairs are being proceeded with in a spiritless manner and no haste is manifested to be prepared to go again to sea.

The movements of the Japanese remain shrouded in mystery. Their ships are reported from time to time on the coast of Shantung and Chihli, but nothing can be learned of the position of the large squadron of men-of-war and transports recently gathered together

together.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

Clipping as above

Enclosure in No 1995.

The
North-China Daily News.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, 1st OCTOBER, 1894.

THE NAVAL FIGHT OFF THE YALOO.

THE following more detailed account of this action has been obtained by our special correspondent in the north from an officer who was present :—

The fleet was ordered to convoy the transports from Talienhwan to the Yaloo. On arriving at Talienhwan it learned of the Chinese defeat at Pingyang, hence the haste to get the troops across. On arriving off the Yaloo on the afternoon of the 16th, the transports were sent inside with orders to disembark their troops with the utmost speed, the fleet anchoring ten miles outside the harbour. It consisted of ten ships, the *Tingyuen*, *Chênyuen*, *Chihyuen*, *Chingyuen*, *Laiyuen*, *Kingyuen*, *Chaoyung*, *Yangwei*, *Tsiyuen*, and *Kuangchia*. The *Pingyuen*, *Kuangping*, and two gunboats were detached to guard the harbour entrance. This was the position until the morning of the 17th, when smoke was seen at 10 o'clock, and recognised to come from the Japanese fleet. At noon we made out twelve ships and steamed in the direction of the enemy. At five miles distance we distinguished the ships according to their types. They approached in column of divisions line ahead, disposed abeam ; coming closer, they tried to form abreast, speed seven knots. Firing was commenced by the *Tingyuen* at about 0.30 p.m., range 5,700 yards. The concussion of the first discharge threw every one off the bridge. When closer, the Japanese appeared to form quarter line, which the Chinese answered by turning two points to starboard, whereby they kept their bows to the enemy. Approaching within 4,400 yards, the whole Japanese fleet seemed to turn eight points to port, thereby forming single line ahead, steaming across our line, turning our starboard wing. While the fleet was getting into formation, the *Chaoyung* and *Yangwei*, being slow in taking station, were disastrously exposed to the enemy's fire, and in consequence one of them commenced to burn. On the port wing the *Tsiyuen* and *Kuangchia* occupied a similar position behind the line, and the Japanese steaming round at five thousand yards cut off the *Tsiyuen* and *Kuangchia*, which were still keeping touch with the fleet. They soon fell back, and nothing more was seen of these two during the action, and they escaped unhurt. Unable to keep pace with the enemy, our aim was to follow the Japanese movements, keeping position with our bow to the enemy, they circling round and maintaining a heavy bombardment of the Chinese fleet. The thick of the fight was borne by the six ships of the *Yuen* class, including the two ironclads. The Japanese having completed one circle, hauled off to 8,000 yards, and went through an evolution with the object of separating into two divisions, the first consisting of the seven best-known swift cruisers, the second of five inferior ships which stood off some distance. Now the *Chihyuen* left the line, steering across our bow, making straight for a Japanese, which sank ; the *Kingyuen* followed, and then their respective sister ships. The battle then arranged itself in two groups, the four cruisers becoming engaged with the second division, the two ironclads with the first division. The fighting with the second division was irregular and difficult to follow, and ended with the Japanese disappearing towards the island of Yangtao. The fight between the first division and the Chinese ironclads was carried on by the Japanese circling round at a distance of 4,500 yards, the *Tingyuen* and *Chênyuen* keeping together, and following the enemy's movements in a smaller circle, the whole taking a spiral form. Occasionally the distance diminished to 2,000, and once to 1,200 yards. The aim of the Japanese was to keep the distance long, making the most of their superior speed and their quick-firing guns, in which their armament vastly excelled the Chinese. Our object was to get to close quarters with our slow-firing guns of great calibre. We now observed the *Chihyuen* suddenly heel over and sink in a few minutes, probably from a chance shot from the enemy's first division. We saw the *Kingyuen* and *Laiyuen* on fire, and the *Chaoyung* and *Yangwei* far off towards the shore, with the *Chingyuen* in the same direction. Firing continued between the Chinese ironclads and the Japanese first division until nearly five, the quick-firing guns giving the latter an immense advantage, scattering showers of splinters, setting the ships frequently on fire, riddling everything not protected. We saw during the action one small Japanese with her two propellers in the air and her bow nearly under, and another badly on fire, apparently sinking. The *Yoshino* and *Matsushima* were burning, the former badly. After receiving two shots each from the *Tsiyuen* and *Chenyuen*, the *Yoshino*, enveloped in a cloud of white smoke, was lying heavily on the water which was completely covering the ship. We waited for the cloud to clear, having our port guns ready, but

before the *Yoshino* became visible, our firing was diverted by a ship of the *Matsushima* type coming on at a distance of 2,200 yards on the port quarter, when the guns laid for the *Yoshino* were fired with effect at her, and she began to burn. Whether these three received mortal injury, is uncertain. In the latter part of the battle the Chinese ironclads were short of common shells, and had to continue the action with steel shot, which were ineffective, the Japanese having no armour. The two ironclads fired 197 rounds from their 12-inch, and 268 rounds from their 6-inch guns. About 4 o'clock the *Tingyuen* was badly on fire forward, the smoke impeding the working of the fore turret. Before 5 the Japanese ceased firing, and we observed the distance increasing rapidly, and failed to diminish it. Then we saw the Japanese change course westerly towards the islands of Yangtao and Haiyuentao. We followed them for an hour, and saw them change their course to the southward. Some of the second division of the Japanese now joined the first. We followed till only their smoke was visible and then returned, and were joined by the *Laiyuen* still burning, the *Chingyuen*, also the *Kuangping* and *Pingyuen*, the two gunboats, and the two torpedo-boats which had been left in charge of the harbour entrance. The *Pingyuen* took some part in the beginning on the outer circumference of the field. One torpedo boat fired three torpedoes without effect. The *Chényuen* fired one last shot in the action at an alphabetical gunboat beyond range.

The conclusions are that the two battleships proved formidable war machines and stood battering with heavy and quick-firing guns admirably. The upper structures were severely damaged, but no shot penetrated a vital part. The barbette protection of the 12-inch guns was most effective; few men were wounded therein, and the two barbette turrets are intact as before. This, however, coupled with this fact that the 6-inch guns, both ends protected by slight hoods, were also undamaged, seems to indicate that the destructive effect was due rather to the enormous number of projectiles discharged from the quick-firing guns, than to skilful direction. The manœuvring of the Japanese first division excited great admiration. Taking advantage of their speed and the long range of their guns, they always kept at the distance which suited them, maintaining perfect order throughout, attempting nothing sensational, never coming within the destructive range of the heaviest guns. Of the seven ships in the first division, five retired.

Having sent a message to the transports to weigh and follow, we proceeded to Port Arthur. There were foreign deck officers only on the two ironclads.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
To M. H. Service
NOV 20 1894
No 1996.

To M. H. Service Nov 21

Omit

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 11th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
NOV 19 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 20 1894

Subject

Cholera in Peking

Synopsis

Cholera unusually prevalent in Peking, supposed to have been brought by students attending the triennial examinations.

№1996.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 11th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I regret to have to report the existence, in a sporadic form, of Asiatic cholera in Peking. While it usually prevails in this city in the autumn, the season of abundant and cheap vegetables and fruits which are largely eaten by the poor, this year its ravages have been unusually

severe

severe.

The disease first made its appearance about the middle of September - Its unusual prevalence is supposed to be due to the presence of large numbers of students attending the government examinations. It is noticeable that it has been more violent in those parts of the city where inns occupied by students are most numerous. Fortunately it has arrived too late in the year to become epidemic. It will soon be checked by the cold weather of October.

More cases which have fallen under the notice of missionary doctors

doctors have been exceedingly fatal. In most cases but a few hours elapse between the first symptoms of the disease and death. The Chinese are entirely unable to cope with it, believing in acupuncture rather than medicine for its cure. Some patients whose abdomens were already pierced have been brought, as a last resort, to foreign hospitals — usually too late. The rapid emaciation of cholera patients is remarkable. In a few hours the flesh wastes away and leaves a robust man thin, sunken and deathlike. Many people seized by the disease are reported to have died upon

the

the street - No foreigners have been attacked.

Dam informed by Dr Coltman, of the American Mission Hospital at the An Ting Gate, that those cases which have come under his observation have been true Asiatic cholera, differing in no essential respects from the epidemics of former years. The simptoms are vomiting, purging and collapse, with muscular cramp and spasmodic contractions.

Every facility seems afforded for the spread of the disease. Disinfection of houses, clothing and patients is unknown.

The examinations held by the government every three years

in

in this city, and those held annually at the provincial capitals, afford an effective method for the spread of epidemics and contagious diseases. At the Peking examinations the students, from ten to twenty thousand in number, with friends and attendants, form a body of not less than forty thousand people, from all parts of the empire, gathered here several weeks at the worst season of the year. Not only do they bring diseases with them, but they carry back to the provinces the germs of maladies contracted from others. They are under no sanitary control whatever and

often

offer a vehicle for the spread of contagion comparable to the pilgrimages to Mecca though on a smaller scale.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

File

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV20 1894

No 1997.

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, October 13th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Protection of Japanese interests

Synopsis

Acknowledging receipt of the Department's instruction of the 29th August on the subject.

№ 1997.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 13th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch № 930, of the 29th August, instructing this Legation as to the nature of the duties which devolve upon it as charged with the interests of Japanese in China.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' Affaires ad interim.

File

DIP

No 1998. NOV20 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 13th, 1894.

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Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The emigration convention.

Synopsis

Acknowledges Department's instruction of August 25th on the subject.

№ 1998.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 13th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch № 925, of the 25th August, enclosing a copy of the convention for the regulation of emigration between the United States and China, and instructing this Legation of the duties which will devolve upon it upon being advised of the exchange

exchange of ratifications thereof.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
FM
NOV 20 1894

Dip

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATONS.

No 1999.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 14th, 1894.

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NOV 19 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The return of the Tenkio Maru

Synopsis

The Japanese ship seized by the Chinese, at Taku, on the 2nd August, returned to her owners. Measures taken for her safe arrival and for the payment of expenses incurred by her.

№ 1999.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 14th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch № 1921, of the 11th August, I had the honor to report to you the seizure of the Japanese barque Yenkio Maru, by the Chinese authorities at Taku. The proposed release of this vessel was put forward by the Viceroy Li as the basis of negotiations looking towards the exemption

from

from capture of Chinese and Japanese merchant vessels. The history of these negotiations and their failure were reported to you in my despatch No. 1938, of the 22nd August.

When these negotiations failed, it was not supposed that any action with reference to this barque would be taken. It seems, however, that, either from a recognition by China of the extreme harshness of her seizure, she having cleared before war was declared and having been laden with materials consigned to the Chinese Government railways, or in fulfillment of an implied

obligation

obligation arising from China's original proposal, or for some other reason, the Chinese authorities finally decided to return her to her owners. It was proposed by the viceroy Li that the vessel be sent to Nagasaki, with a Chinese crew and foreign captain. This proposal was accepted by Japan, and notice of such acceptance given through the Legations of the United States at Tokyo and Peking.

On the 11th instant, the Tenkio set sail from Takw. At the request of the Japanese Government, I telegraphed the American Minister, at Tokyo,

the

the date of her departure. She flies the Japanese flag and carries her original ship's papers. Her captain is also provided with a certificate, in the nature of a safe-conduct, by Consul Read at Tientsin.

During her captivity, the Tenkio became indebted to the Chinese authorities for certain sums of money expended on her maintenance. Advances for the payment of these sums, as well as for the expenses of her temporary captain and crew, in going to and returning from Japan, were made by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, at Tientsin.

These

These advances were made without any assurance of repayment, but with the faith that they would be promptly liquidated by the owners of the ship or by the Japanese Government. At the request of the Chinese authorities, I telegraphed Mr. Dun, at Tokyo, asking an assurance to this effect.

The return of the Tenkio was a voluntary act on the part of China as, notwithstanding the hardship of her seizure, I did not feel at liberty to make any protest in the matter.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

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3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY. COPIED. FOREIGN RELATONS.

No 2000. File

NOV 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 14th, 1894.

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NOV 19 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Decree enjoining protection to missionaries.

Synopsis

The Emperor enjoins protection of missionaries in Peking. Other precautions for foreigners safety.

One enclosure.

No 2000.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 14th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a translation of a decree which appeared in the Gazette of the 12th instant, forcibly enjoining the protection of the missionaries in this city.

1/2000

The Chinese Government is making commendable efforts to guarantee foreigners from molestation

molestation or injury. In addition to the proclamations recently posted and this decree, other measures have been taken, such as the placing of small companies of soldiers in the vicinity of foreign residences. The are also said to be under the friendly surveillance of secret police.

The city, at present, seems more than usually tranquil.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure: Decree as above.

Enclosure in No. 2000.

Decree issued by His Majesty the Emperor, published in the Manuscript Gazette, October 12th 1894.

The foreign missionary establishments situated in Peking have long enjoyed peace and quiet and it is right, should necessity arise, that every protection should be extended to them.

The Japanese have engaged in war with China but this does not in the least involve foreigners of Western countries. During the present year there has been a large influx of persons from the various provinces into Peking. It is to be feared that there may be among them some ignorant fellows who may recklessly excite the people. There is a still worse class of unlawful unscrupulous rowdies who will

await

avail of rumor to creat disturbances.

It is, therefore, urgently necessary that measures should be taken to guard against such acts. To this end, let the Office of the Gendarmerie and the Police Censors of the Five Cities issue instructions to their subordinate officers that they must earnestly act to suppress disturbances and give special care to the protection of the missionaries. Any one who violates the law and creates trouble must be immediately arrested and severely punished. Not the least leniency is to be shown

Twice to press

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Confirmed Oct 17 F. J.

From Peking

October 15, 1894.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT16 1894

GRESHAM,

Washington,

October 15. Reports of danger of residents Peking exaggerated - only one attack on Americans - insignificant, promptly punished. Excellent proclamation enjoining the protection of foreigners issued at my request.

Denby, Charge.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Fld
NOV 20 1894

No 2001.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 15th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The naval battle of the Yalu River

Synopsis

Another and fuller account of this battle enclosed.

One enclosure.

No 2001.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 15th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In view of the great interest excited by the battle off the mouth of the Yalu River, on the 17th ultimo, between the fleets of China and Japan, and in view of its possible instructiveness to those interested in modern naval warfare, I have the honor to enclose another description thereof.

This

This description is taken from the North China Daily News of the 3rd instant. It purports to be a summary of the statements of all foreign survivors.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

Leading article from North China Daily News, Oct 3rd 1894.

Enclosure in No. 2001.

The
North-China Daily News.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, 3RD OCTOBER, 1894.

THE NAVAL FIGHT OFF THE YALOO.

[The following narrative has been collated from the verbal accounts of the action given by the foreign survivors and from data subsequently obtained at Port Arthur. Great care has been taken to eliminate mere rumour, and when the evidence does not harmonise, the incidents (real or supposed) have either been omitted, or the attempt to reconcile discrepancies openly confessed. —ED.]

CAPTAIN Mahan in his invaluable work, *The Sea Power in History*, postulates that the naval supremacy of the future is to be decided by battle-ships; if this be so, then the great crucial test of the modern conditions for fighting at sea has still to be made; for of the twenty-seven vessels engaged in the recent fight only two have any pretensions to be called battle-ships, viz., the Chinese vessels *Tingyuen* and *Chênyuen*; all the rest were of the protected or unprotected cruiser class. Still the general action near Tatungkou will evoke profound interest in naval circles, and will supply invaluable experience and endless material for criticism. On the termination of hostilities the two Powers concerned will doubtless supply exact and detailed information, but, as for the present they will either be altogether reticent or only supply such "facts" as suit their political ends, an impartial description by an unbiassed writer may at least gratify the reasonable curiosity of the lay public, if it does not meet the exigent demands of the scientists. Be it observed that the information has been obtained only from those present in the Chinese ships, or who have seen them since.

The Japanese all through the war have shown that their Intelligence Department is excellently worked, and there can be no reasonable doubt that they received accurate information as to the destination of the 4,000 troops and large quantities of rice and military stores which left Taku about the 14th of September in the steamers *Hsinyü*, *Toonan*, *Chintung*, *Leeyuen*, and *Haeting*. These vessels picked up their convoy and made for Tatungkou under an escort of six cruisers and four torpedo boats; when off Talienwan Bay they were joined by the larger vessels of the Chinese fleet and made their destination on Sunday, the 16th of September. The debarkation began under cover of the torpedo vessels and two of the lesser-draught ships and was successfully accomplished, while the other nine vessels of the fleet remained in 25 fathoms some 10 or 12 miles S. by E. from Tatungkou (Lat. 39.63 N., Long. 124.9 E). It must be noted that the Admiralty chart of 1860 is altogether wrong in the local topography; not only does it miss the Tatung altogether but it misplaces the Yaloo, and is utterly misleading both in the soundings and chartography of the whole coast thereabouts. The Japanese, with that prevision which precludes the element of luck, carefully surveyed the coast two or three years ago; the harbour master of Port Arthur has repeatedly urged the Chinese to follow their example but without success.

Steam was kept up, when at noon on Monday, the 17th of September, a cloud of that obtrusive black smoke which Japanese coal gives off showed the approach of their fleet from the south; the Admiral at once weighed anchor, drew up his squadron in a formation roughly like an obtuse angle with the two armoured ships at the apex, and advanced to give battle. The Japanese came on in line and carried out a series of evolutions with beautiful precision; the tactics of both sides are too highly technical for the lay mind to grasp but in common speech they may be resolved into this. (1) The Japanese having higher speed—the modern equivalent to the weather-gauge—kept circling around the Chinese, enlarging their radius as they came within range of the big guns of the armoured *Tingyuen* and *Chênyuen* and coming closer in as they came opposite the unarmoured ships and guns of less calibre. (2) The Chinese kept their wedge formation, but as all the halyards were shot away in the Admiral's ship early in the action, they had simply to watch the leaders and act at discretion.

The very first evolution of the enemy detached three Chinese ships, one of which was the fine Elswick cruiser *Chihyuen* (2,300 tons, 18 knots, three 8″ twelve-ton guns, two 6″ four-ton, and 17 quick-firers). Captain Tang handled his ship with admirable coolness, his vessel was badly hulled very early in the fight and took a strong list to starboard; seeing she was sinking he went full speed ahead at a Japanese, who was sticking to him like a limpet and making free practice, with the intention of ramming her, but he foundered with all hands (250) just before the ship got home. One account has it that he actually did sink the Japanese, but the weight of evidence is that he only disabled him by his return fire. News has reached Tientsin that Captain Tang and his First

Lieut. Chen have been picked up by junks; this, if true, will be the source of very great pleasure to those gallant fellows' many friends, foreign and native, for he was regarded by many as one of the most dashing officers in the Chinese service, and his ship has ever been a model in smartness and discipline.

The *Kingyuen* (2,850 tons, 16½ knots, two 8¼" ten-ton guns, two 6" four-tons, and seven machine guns) took fire soon after this, but her captain while subduing the flames still fought the ship. Seeing a disabled Japanese near him (most probably the same vessel that the *Chihyuen* tried to ram) he came up intending to capture or sink her, but was incautious enough to cross the line of her torpedo tube at a short distance. The Japanese thereupon shot her only bolt and sure enough blew the *Kingyuen* up; out of a complement of 270 odd, some seven only are known to have escaped. One account says that this fine vessel perished from fire, but subsequent information from Port Arthur gives this more accurate version of her end, though it is true she was badly on fire. With regard to this disabled Japanese not one of our informants here will deliberately say "I myself saw her founder," but without exception they all maintain that she sank soon after the destruction of the *Kingyuen*. The notorious Fong, the reinstated captain of the *Tsiyuen*, again distinguished himself by his devotion to the white feather; all the foreign survivors are very silent on this subject, but there is no doubt whatever that this poor creature signalled early in the day that his ship was badly struck, and that he then promptly took her out of action. In doing so he ran precipitately into the shallows, where the Elswick-built cruiser *Yangwei* (1,350 tons: 16 knots: two 10", twenty-five-ton guns, four 4½", ten machine guns) was in difficulties, struggling hard to get off. Fong's navigation and pilotage were about equal to his courage; finding his soundings suddenly change he altered his helm and fairly rammed his unhappy colleague; escaping himself, however, with a damaged bow. The *Yangwei's* crew (? 150) were nearly all lost, and the vessel herself now lies in about 4½ fathoms on a straight keel, with her tops and lighter guns out of the water, and her turret or barbette just awash. She was seen in that position four days after the battle by the returning transports. The *Tsiyuen* ran at full speed for Port Arthur, when the foreign engineer came ashore and flatly refused to serve further with such a captain. News has since arrived in Tientsin that he will be under no necessity of doing so; as Fong's head was promptly sheared off by imperative order from Tientsin. Before we quit ourselves of this pol-troon let us add that he was recently court-martialled for his conduct on the day of the *Kowshing* disaster, and was to the great indignation of the fleet reinstated in his command. His villainous example was followed by the commander of the wooden corvette *Kuangchia* (1,100 tons, three 12-cm. quick-firing guns, eight machine guns). It is a moot point whether his ship was injured in the action or not; he shows the wood work of the latrines (*absit omen*) as a proof; at any rate he bolted, and kept so keen an eye aft that at 11 p.m. he ran on to a reef some 20 miles E. of Talienhwan Bay; and for all that is known he is there still, although there is a rumour that a Japanese scout has since put a torpedo into him.

The desertion of these two ships would have reduced the Chinese to seven but they were reinforced by the vessels from inshore and later on by the torpedo vessels, four in number. One of these two ships, the *Yangwei*, was, as we have seen, rammed by the *Tsiyuen*, the other, the *Chaoyung*, a sister ship, soon took fire and also got into shoal water where she burnt completely out; more than 100 men were taken off by a torpedo vessel, but some of her crew were killed; the vessel is now visible, a useless shell, just above the wash of the sea at low water. This completes the list of Chinese casualties and losses.

The torpedo boats found some difficulty in joining the fray; the loss of the halyards, and in some cases of colours made it difficult to distinguish friend from foe; but the young officers in charge did well and acted fully up to their instructions to keep well under the lee of a big ship during fire and then dart out under a bank of smoke. Unfortunately for them their little vessels had been scouting for three weeks and had been overworked; the result was lamentable; when they opened out, their possible 20 knots sank to something between 14 and 15; the smoke rose rapidly, and long before the Schwartzkopf range was reached, they were seen and fired at. Oddly enough they were not hit once by anything worthy of notice, but on the other hand they effected nothing. The dreaded torpedo only scored once in the action and that in the case of the *Kingyuen*, an issue entirely due to overconfidence and rashness.

Meantime the two armoured vessels *Tingyuen* and *Chênyuen* were the recipients of the continued and persistent firing of the Japanese; the *Chênyuen* under the command of Commodore Lin, assisted by two foreigners, made grand practice and kept admirable discipline; her frequent fires were extinguished promptly and the ship was admirably handled throughout the action. The

foreign officers on board are both severely wounded, one in the arm while the other through an inadvertence in the too prompt fire of one of the heavy guns, got his scalp and face badly burned and was subsequently wounded in the arms. So persistent was the fire from this vessel that the magazine was all but depleted and she arrived at Port Arthur with only 20 rounds of heavy shell left; they fired 148 six-inch shell and quite exhausted their smaller ammunition. Her fire was as effective as it was sustained, owing to the skill and coolness of a foreign expert. This ship's superstructures were almost completely destroyed, and a shell struck the spindle of the hydraulic gear of the port gun, putting it out of action. With this exception it is amazing to find how little damage the heavy fire did to the guns and machinery. Only three guns were dismounted in the whole Chinese fleet, and in no case were the engines, boilers, or hydraulic machinery (*Chênyuen* excepted) injured. No casualties are reported from the engine rooms, where the behaviour was excellent. The *Laiyuen* (a sister ship to the *Kingyuên* in build and armament) had her superstructure damaged by fire and shell more than any ship in the fleet, and was an appalling sight in Port Arthur; the foreigners who have seen her deem it a marvel that she could ever have been brought into port, so completely wrecked is all the deck gear. Essentially however the ship is sound both in hull, armament, and engines.

The *Tingyuen* (flagship, 7,430 tons, 14½ knots, four 37 ton Krupp guns, two 4 ton do., eight machine guns) was the scene of some striking episodes. A heavy shell supposed but not known to be on the *ricochet*, struck the fighting top, killing instantly the 7 men in it, and knocking the entire gear into the sea. Another shot in its vagaries bent but did not break the steam pipe; a third killed poor Nicholls, an ex-petty officer of the Royal Navy, who seeing another foreigner bleeding from a wound in the groin volunteered to take his place for a few minutes while he went below. This latter gentleman by the bye, behaved with the utmost coolness and gallantry, it was through his exertions that a terrific fire was got under forward when it had all but obtained the mastery. The Admiral and a third foreigner who had volunteered from the Customs service were violently thrown off the bridge by concussion and rendered senseless for some time: it is supposed that the heavy guns were simultaneously fired from the barbette. On recovering, the Admiral was found to have sustained an injury to his foot, while an attendant in bearing help to his master was literally blown into the air and sea in infinitesimal pieces by a shell, an incident which profoundly affected the brave old soldier. The young Customs officer had the drum of his ear broken and some other wounds. This gentleman had been the exponent of firmer discipline and constant fire quarters ever since he had joined the flagship, but was continually thwarted by his Chinese colleagues. After the battle they were effusive and sincere both in their apologies and thanks; five hours of fighting has completely changed their views, and they now profess regret for former failings as well as zeal for a new departure. One of the most pleasant features of the whole affair is to hear the ungrudging testimony of the foreigners of rival nationalities to their shipmates, both foreign and Chinese, their courage and skill, and their absolute silence about their own doings.

About 3 o'clock the Japanese hauled off for consultation, but came on again and renewed the battle; about 5 they took their final leave, the *Tingyuen* and *Chênyuen* following them up; this was probably a bit of strategy of the Japanese, for after running ten or twelve miles, five of them turned round and, to use the expressive phrase of a recipient, "gave the big ships hell." This was apparently the last kick, for to the unmitigated delight of the responsible officers they finally hauled off and disappeared to the southward. The two Chinese ships had no small ammunition left, and only a very limited supply of heavy shell, with which they pounded away at slow intervals, as there were two hours of day still left.

The Admiral sent on a verbal message for the transports to come along, but they had gone far up stream when they knew what was going on, and did not dare to move without more special orders; it was supposed that they had fallen victims to the Japanese who had returned next day, but this figment of the imagination was finally dissipated on Saturday when they all arrived at Taku. They had left Tatungkou on Friday, four days after the battle, saw the shell of the *Chaoyung* and the tops of the *Yangwei* on the scene of the action; called in at Port Arthur where they saw the six Chinese vessels and crossed the Gulf in perfect safety.

Whose was the victory?

The Japanese have wired to London that they sunk four Chinese ships and lost none: there is no doubt they did sink directly or indirectly four ships, indeed one more may be thrown in; and there is no avoiding the fact that the loss is serious. On the other hand the Chinese (1) effected their object, (2) remained uncaptured on the scene of action, (3) gave chase after five hours of fighting, (4) got to their naval base in safety and saved their transports.

The foreign survivors to a man regard the statement that the Japanese lost no ships as a barefaced lie; at any rate it can easily be proved. If the absurd provincial etiquette and jealousies of the Viceroys does not block the way and the Nanyangs come up to join the Peiyangs, the strength of the Northern Squadron will be very little impaired.

The Chinese naval officers are now different men; they profess to be full of confidence for the future, fully alive to their past weaknesses, and resolute to give even a better account of themselves when next they meet the enemy. They are certainly buying their experience at a very high cost, but it is invaluable.

The foreigners present differ in their opinion as to the shooting; one gallant fellow who is badly wounded maintains the marked superiority of Friedrich the Great of Essen; no doubt under his skilled management, Krupp came out well; but his testimony is impaired by the fact that he holds a brief for that eminent ordnance maker: a compatriot of his of equal scientific ability is of deliberate opinion that the Japanese fire was much more accurate, of greater range, and of more penetrating power than the Chinese: but the impartial reader will know that the Japanese armament is more modern, and has a far greater proportion of quick-firing guns. They used cordite and the older explosives; the Chinese used only powder.

There are 252 wounded in the vessels at Port Arthur, the injuries of most of them being not at all serious, and not necessitating surgical interference. Every deck officer in the fleet they say is hurt; in this case it is simply marvellous that so few were killed. The *Tingyuen* has 17, the *Chênyuen* 15, the other vessels about the same number, so that the total is less than 100, but to these must be added the 600 odd who perished by the sinking, etc., of the *Chihyuen*, *Kingyuen*, *Chaoyung*, and *Yangwei*, including Mr. Purvis, the engineer, who went down in the *Chihyuen*.

Dip

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
File
1894

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATONS.

No 2002.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 15th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
NOV 19 1894
DEPT OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Residence at Peking not unsafe

Synopsis

Confirms telegram of this date, reporting that reports of unsafety of residence at Peking are exaggerated.

No. 2002.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 15th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of this date, as follows:

"October 15th, Reports "of danger of residence "Peking exaggerated. Only "one attack on Americans, "insignificant, promptly "punished. Excellent "proclamations enjoining the

"the protection of foreigners
"issued at my request".

There have been repeated back to Peking, recently, several telegrams, sent to London and elsewhere, reporting the danger of residence in this city. The alarm expressed in them is not shared by well-informed residents. It is my impression that these telegrams originated at other points and did not proceed from Peking. Whatever their object, whether to justify foreign interference, or to serve other purposes, they will cause groundless anxiety in Europe and America, which, it is to be hoped, the above telegram may

Leif

help to allay.

The fact of the matter is that, while the excitement caused by the threatened Japanese invasion justified the precautions reported in my despatch No 1988, of the 3rd instant, that excitement has now subsided, and there is no reason, at present, to regard ourselves as unsafe.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' affaires ad interim.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

No 2003.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 22nd, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
DEC 3 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The two Japanese seized at Shanghai.

Synopsis

They were executed at Nanking

on the 8th instant.

No 2003.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 22nd, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I regret to have to report that the two Japanese who were arrested in the French Concession at Shanghai, during the month of August, and subsequently delivered by the Consul General of the United States to the Chinese authorities, were decapitated at Nanking, on the 8th instant.

I

It is not known what proof of guilt was brought against them, nor what was the result of the repeated examinations to which they were subjected. The Yamên declined to accede to my informal request for information on the subject.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

No. 2004.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 3 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 23rd, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

China willing to cease hostilities

Synopsis

The Chinese Government has announced its willingness to make terms favorable to Japan. Foreign intervention not as yet desirable. Great Britain's reasons for wishing peace.

No 2004.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 23rd, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that the Chinese Government has formally expressed to the British Minister here its willingness to withdraw from the war, on terms favorable to Japan. It is willing to concede the independence of Korea and to pay a war indemnity.

Before

Before hostilities began, the representatives of Russia and Great Britain cooperated in earnest efforts to avert them. After the defeat of the Chinese at Pingyang and the expulsion of their armies from Korea, the immediate purpose of Japan, the freedom of Korea from Chinese interference, was accomplished. Japan could advance no further without an invasion of the territory of China. This would inaugurate another war distinct from that already terminated in Korea, and one whose consequences could not be foretold. The time seemed favorable for an attempt

to

to intervene.

Under these circumstances, the English and Russian Ministers took upon themselves the role of mediators. The consent of China to their proposals of peace was easily obtained. She had been averse to war in the beginning, and, after successive defeats, felt her inability to bring it to a successful close. As far as can be learned, however, there is no disposition on the part of Japan to come to terms at present.

The nomination of Prince Kung as Minister of Foreign Affairs distinctly foreshadowed an

abandonment

abandonment of the war on the part of China. His connection with diplomacy began in 1860, when he was called upon to negotiate peace with the victorious French and English armies. His relations with foreigners have been such as to convince him of the military weakness of his own country. Experience fits him for the role which he may be called upon to play viz. to conduct the negotiations to which the Chinese Government may soon find itself again reduced."

Independent observers in China are not unanimous in desiring a forced termination

of

of hostilities at present. It is felt that the war should be allowed to take its course. If intervention brings about peace it will be a peace that cannot endure. This country can only be brought into harmony with the world by force. The reverses of China will be a salutary experience up to the point at which the dynasty may be threatened. When such a contingency becomes imminent, it will be time for foreign intervention.

England's advocacy of peace is easily explicable. In the first place her commerce is deranged by the existence of hostilities.

The

The political considerations by which she is influenced are scarcely less forcible. Should rebellion take place in China and should the Manchu power be broken and the Manchus be expelled, the formation of an independent Manchu principality, north of China proper, would be the natural consequence. This principality might easily be converted into a Russian dependency. Such a contingency is not too remote to be regarded with indifference by British statesmen. To this consideration must be added the ever present fear that some turn in the war may justify Russia in

interference

interference in Korea.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

Secretary of State. OCT 27 1894

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Confirmed Oct 29. E.J.

From Peking

Oct. 27, 1894.

Received 9.05 A.M.

Oct. 27/94.

GRESHAM,

Washington,

Japan rejects overtures for peace. Japanese troops entering into Manchuria.

DENBY

Charge

Dip

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC 26 1894

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject & file.
aak
DEC 22 1894

Recd Dec. 27

C

No. 2005.

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 10 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, October 27th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Japan declines to make peace.

Synopsis

Confirms telegram this date reporting Japan's rejection of overtures of peace and entrance of her troops into Manchuria. Measures taken by China.

No 2005

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 27th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of this date as follows:

"October 27th. Japan rejects "overtures for peace. Japanese "troops entering into Manchuria".

News reached Peking yesterday that several thousand Japanese had crossed the Yalu River and that some engagements with

with the Chinese cavalry had taken place. A large fleet of transports has also proceeded northwards, along the coast of Korea, ostensibly destined for Manchuria.

Her British Majesty's Minister informed me last night that when he communicated the news to Prince Kung that Japan was unwilling to come to terms the Prince was completely overcome. He asked if no further proporitions could be made which might avert the continuance of the war.

China now realizes the serious character of the crisis

that

that she has to face. Large sums of money are being collected all over the empire for war purposes. Mr. von Hanneken, the German officer recently attached to the staff of Admiral Ting, has been summoned to Peking by the Emperor, and it is reported that he is to be put in command of the Chinese army. Determined efforts will be made to resist the Japanese advance.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' affaires ad interim.

Confirmed by 1st Oct. 30th 1894

Legation of the United States
Peking, October 28, 1894

No. 8.

CABLE MESSAGE.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Secretary of State. Nov 29 1894

ALL CABLE MESSAGES received for transmission must be written on the Message Blanks provided by this Company for that purpose, under and subject to the conditions printed thereon, and on the back hereof, which conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message.

THOS. T. ECKERT, General Manager. NORVIN GREEN, President.

TWO AMERICAN CABLES FROM NEW YORK TO GREAT BRITAIN.
CONNECTS ALSO WITH FOUR ANGLO-AMERICAN AND ONE DIRECT U. S. ATLANTIC CABLES.
DIRECT CABLE COMMUNICATION WITH GERMANY AND FRANCE.
CABLE CONNECTION WITH CUBA, WEST INDIES, MEXICO AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.
MESSAGES SENT TO, AND RECEIVED FROM, ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

OFFICES IN AMERICA:
All Offices (20,000) of the Western Union Telegraph Company and its Connections.

OFFICES IN GREAT BRITAIN:
LONDON: No. 21 Royal Exchange, E. C. No. 109 Fenchurch Street, E. C.
LIVERPOOL: A5 Exchange Buildings.
GLASGOW: No. 29 Gordon Street.
BRISTOL: Backhall Chambers.

NUMBER	SENT BY	RECD BY	No. OF WORDS.	FROM
	my Py Mc		8	Port Perin

RECEIVED at Washington DC Oct 29 1894

Gresham

Washington

Arrived October twenty seventh

Derby Minister

//

Mr. Denby

No. 2006.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 29th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 10 1894
DEPT OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

DEC 10 1894

Subject

Minister Denby takes charge.

Synopsis

Confirms telegram of 28th instant announcing his arrival.

No. 2006.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 29th 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of yesterday's date as follows:

"Arrived October twenty-seventh"

I have this day taken charge of this Legation.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

T. M.

Oct. 30
Chinese forces
Japanese "
Confirmed Oct. 31. '94

Mail
Jan 14/95
EJR

57

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Secretary of State.
OCT 30 1894

From Peking

October 30, 1894.

Received 9.10 A.M.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

OCT 30 1894

GRESHAM,

Washington, D.C.

October 30, Chinese forces have been defeated at Chiulien cheng - have retreated to Moukden. Japanese have taken one fort at Port Arthur - they propose to take others to-morrow.

DENBY.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

OCT 30 1894

MEMO

TO-BOTTOM.

Please one copy at once to Mr. Allen - that proposes to make option
on Chinese property - Mr. Lockhart of Hankow. Telephone Mr.
Carlton Chase - Mr. Lockhart is to be instructed to send
copies of Chinese letters that have been delivered to
Washington, D.C.

HANKOW

Peking

October 20, 1934.

Received by U.S.A. Ol.C

October 20, 1934.

File

No 2007.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, ~~August~~ October 30th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 10 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

DIP

DEC 10 1894

Subject

Japanese attack on Port Arthur

Synopsis

Confirms telegram of this date reporting that the Japanese have partially taken Port Arthur.

No 2007.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 30th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of this date as follows:

"October 30th. Chinese forces
"have been defeated at
"Chin-lien-cheng; have
"retreated to Moukden.
"Japanese have taken one
"fort at Port Arthur. They
"propose to take others
tomorrow

tomorrow."

I learn that the third of November is the anniversary of the birthday of the Emperor of Japan. The Japanese propose to signalize the day by taking all the works at Port Arthur.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Dip

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC 26 1894

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject & file
DEC 22 1894

Copied Dec 22/94

No. 2008.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 30th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECVD.
DEC 10 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

√ Acknd Dec 27

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Minister Denby's return to Peking.

Synopsis

Interview with Secretary of Foreign Affairs in Japan. Popular war feeling of Japanese. Interview with Li Hung-chang. Condition of Legation.

No 2008.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 30th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

When I arrived at Yokohama, I intended to leave on the first ship that was bound for Shanghai. I was induced to delay my departure three days in order to see Viscount Mutsu, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who proposed to come up from Hiroshima to see me. My interview with the Secretary

was

was not important.

It soon appeared that he emphatically repudiated the idea that American consuls could exercise jurisdiction over Chinese in Japan. The whole question, therefore, both in China and Japan remains exactly as ordered by you.

I found Japan alive with patriotic fervor. The theatres were producing naval and military plays in which victory always crowned the Japanese arms. Many pictures were displayed in the shop windows illustrating Japanese prowess. Troops were being drilled and despatched to the seat of war.

In

In China I have seen nothing similar. A dead apathy pervades the people and all branches of the public service.

I had two interviews with Li Hung-chang. He was depressed, and miserable, and cuts a sorry figure without his three-eyed pea-cock feather. He had little to say about the war. He told me Japan had spies in China. I asked if China did not have them in Japan. He said no. I said that was curious as a state of war existed. He seemed to be disconcerted by this view of warfare. To console him a little, I said that if his

views

views as to public improvements had been acted on, China would not be in the difficulties under which she now labored. He simply said he wished I would say that at Peking. I said that nations, like individuals learned only by experience; that China was getting her lesson now and representations at Peking were unnecessary.

On the Viceroy's visit to me he was accompanied by Sheng Taotai, one of the most important of his followers. I asked him why China consented that Corea should make foreign treaties. He said she did so

because

because she thought that the foreign powers would regulate Corean affairs and insure the preservation of order. I said "Well, Japan is a foreign power "and that is exactly what she "is doing". He then frankly admitted that the whole management of Corean affairs was erroneous, stating that China, by consenting to the making of treaties by Corea and then by claiming suzerainty over her, had completely stultified herself.

My journey to Peking was not marked by any unusual incident. I did not see a soldier during five days travel from Tientsin. The people

people whom I interrogated en route had not heard of the war.

I beg to say, to the credit of the chargé d'affaires ad interim, that I found this Legation in perfect order. His conduct of affairs has received from all classes of men, foreigners as well as Chinese, the most enthusiastic approbation, to which it affords me pleasure to add my emphatic concurrence. I desire, also, to state that Mr. J. D. Cheshire, the interpreter, has discharged his own duties, and others which fell to him during my absence, with faithfulness

and

and ability.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DIPL
JAN 8 1895
2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Copy to Secy of the Navy
for his Confidential information.
Ack. by Number and File.
DEC 31 1894
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 31 1894

No 2009.

Legation of the United States.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
DEC 10 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, October 31st, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

√ To Navy, Jany 2.

Subject

Foreign guard for Peking.

Synopsis

The Admiral has been asked to increase the force of the "Monocacy" so that men may be sent to Peking if required.

No 2009.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 31st, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that a general opinion prevails here that the Japanese propose to march on Peking. In that event, it is anticipated that the emperor and his court will disappear. Peking may be left without any governmental control. It is thought that in such a

condition

condition there will be anti-foreign riots.

There are more than sixty Americans here, who would be without any protection in the circumstances stated.

In such a contingency two courses would be left to foreigners: first, to leave the city, if possible, before the approach of the Japanese; second, to defend themselves against the mob.

I do not wish to abandon my post and, therefore, incline to the second alternative. With this view, I have written to Rear Admiral Carpenter, suggesting that the crew of the "Monocacy",

which

which is at Tientsin, be increased by fifty men, and that the commanding officer be instructed to send them to Peking on my request. I do not think it advisable that such a detail should be drawn from the present crew of the "Monocacy".

Whether or not I will ask that a guard of men shall be sent hither remains to be determined, dependent on the course of events. It seemed to me, however, that no harm would arise from increasing the crew of the "Monocacy". It is not unusual in the East to station troops at or near Legations. This is now done at Seoul.

)

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

C

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

DEC 26 1894

No. 2010.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject and file.
DEC 22 1894

Acknd Dec. 27.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
DEC 10 1894
DEPT OF STATE

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 31st, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Interview with the Yamên

Synopsis

Etiquette for delivery of President's autograph letter. Proposal to the United States to mediate between China and Japan.

No 2010.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 31st, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I had an interview with the Tsungli Yamên today. Prince Kung, Fu-kun, Sun Yü-wên, Chang Yin-huan and Wang Ming-huan were present.

After the usual preliminary remarks, I mentioned that I was the custodian of a congratulatory

congratulatory letter from the President to the Emperor, touching the sixtieth anniversary of the birthday of the Empress Dowager, and I wished to know what ceremonial of presentation had been determined upon. In this connection I took occasion to recommend that audience should be granted at the palace proper, in order that all the members of the Corps Diplomatique could attend, which some of them would not do if the audience were elsewhere than the palace.

The ministers said that my suggestion should receive consideration.

I am quite sure that we will be received at the palace.

At this stage the servants were ordered to withdraw – the first time such a thing ever occurred. Prince Kung said that the Yamên had a very important matter to present to me. The first article of the treaty of 1858 with the United States was then produced and read as follows:

"And if any other nation
"should act unjustly or
"oppressively, the United States
"will exert their good offices,
"on being informed of the
"case, to bring about an amicable
"arrangement of the question,

thus

"thus showing their friendly "feelings".

By virtue of this article, they proposed to make a direct appeal to the United States to address Japan, as a mediator, to secure an armistice and, ultimately, peace. I agreed to send this proposal to you in cipher, in ipsissimis verbis.

He ministers stated that this course was pursued during the Franco-Chinese war.

Prince Kung piteously exclaimed "can no means be devised to stop this dreadful war-!"

Hsu Sun Yü-wēn, with the view of showing that the conduct

conduct of Japan came within the definition of the treaty, made a long statement, descriptive of the acts of Japan, which it is impossible to reproduce accurately from memory. The material part was that China did not want war; that a rebellion existed in Corea; that the King asked, as he had done before, that Chinese troops should be sent to put down the rebellion; that China gave notice of the sending of troops; that Japan fired on the Kowshing, before war was declared, that Japan took the King in custody and sent his son away a prisoner; that Japan sent soldiers, in the first instance,

to

to Corea, under false pretences,
etc, etc.

I stated that it would not be proper for me to utter any opinion as to which nation was to blame, but I would express an opinion which generally existed as to one cause of the war. I said that view was that the attitude of China towards Corea was not consistent; that China had consented that Corea should make treaties with foreign powers; that thereby she admitted the independence of Corea, nevertheless she still claimed a species of suzerainty over her. The Ministers said that the King of Corea had, when he

made

made the treaty with the United States, written a letter to the President, wherein he stated that he was tributary to China. I said yes, but that, in the same letter, he stated that he had the right to make treaties as an independent power, and, in the first article of the Japanese treaty with Corea, it is stated "Chosen, "being an independent state, "enjoys the same sovereign "rights as does Japan". I stated further that the Corean question was at the bottom of the war, and, even in an attempt to mediate, some settlement of it, as matter of inducement, should

be

be mentioned. I desired to know whether China would consent to acknowledge the absolute independence of Corea. He Ministers said yes, she would. I asked that this declaration might be put in writing. They agreed to do so.

This interview lasted more than two hours. The state of mind of the ministers bordered on despair.

I am painfully aware that these lines will not reach you until, most probably, momentous events, which they are designed to avert, will have passed into history. I can only say that this dynasty is threatened

with

with ruin, and the empire is crumbling away. China, by the admission of her highest officials, is in a desperate condition. Your mediation may possibly save the dynasty and the empire. This subject, however, will be brought to your attention by wire.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.
DIPLOMATIC

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

From Peking, November 3, Nov 14 1894
Rec'd November 5, 1894.

Gresham

Washington.

I Confirmed Nov. 14 1894 S.

November 3. I send by telegraph at the expense of China the following:- The Princes and Ministers of the Tsungli Yamen to his Excellency Charles Denby. Yesterday we handed your excellency a despatch concerning the Chinese- Japanese question, but as Your Excellency has but recently returned the special points of the affair may have escaped your attention ad and we therefore write this supplementary note. Korea's trubutary relations with China had existed some three hundred years and were recorded in state papers set forth in treaty documents and never before questioned. Last summer an insurrection broke out in Chu-La-Do and at the King's pressing request the Emperor, in accordance with existing rules, dispatched a couple of thousand troops to suppress it. Their arrival had an immediate effect, and their return was about to be arranged for when suddenly Japanese soldiers also made their appearance, who, without going to the scene of trouble, went straight to the capital, Seoul, and in a few days their numbers grew to over ten thousand. Thereupon there were negotiations for mutual withdrawal but Japan refused to withdraw and subsequently rejected a further proposal

that the troops of both should be moved back ~~so far~~ somewhat ~~so as~~ to avoid collision and give time for settlement. In short, in every particular and at every point China acted reasonably and with a due regard to circumstances and the origin of despatch of troops was entirely in order and meant neither seizure of territory nor desire for war. While in the very middle of these attempts to find a solution the "Kowshing" affair occurred, and that was speedily followed by the news of the fight at Yashan. Such were the doings of Japan and nothing remained for China but to accept a war. But the troops of China differ from those of foreign countries. Other powers have their soldiers for aggressive and defensive warfare whereas those of China have been simply for the preservation of internal quiet and we have no army on a war footing. Japan on the other hand since the beginning of the present reign has been changing and in every thing adopting western methods so that her army is now like that of any western power, and naturally Chinese soldiers have not been very successful in the engagements which have taken place.

China and Japan are the principal powers of the East, and their relations should be both friendly and neighborly, but the treatment of the Korean question by Japan has brought war.

Inasmuch as, even if successful, both must be sufferers, the Ping Yang battle was followed by China with another attempt at negotiation.

Telegram Received in Cipher.

A As Asiatic empires, China and Japan have no need to hurt each other; and besides being connected by treaties Japan has no other difficulty with (up) nor any cause of offense to take hold of.

Unexpectedly Japan has pushed forward her troops and refused negotiation. How account for such action? She has now crossed the Yalu river and entered Chinese territory in force. She is threatening the three Eastern Provinces and even an attack on the capital - Peking - is said to be contemplated.

As for Japan, victory and defeat are not always a certainty, and she may fall short of her aim; and as for ourselves, China regards war as both cruel and hazardous and is always willing to make sacrifices to prevent it and to protect life so that although in no way responsible for present hostilities, there is almost nothing we would not do to stop them. Internally and externally war will be most damaging to ourselves, in the first instance, but if it continues, it must have consequences detrimental to the interests of others. At the treaty ports, foreign merchants wil be unable to conduct their business in peace and in the interior it may be difficult to extend full protection to missionaries and hence possible further complications and this assuredly is not to the interest of mutual intercourse. The Emperor desires to maintain and cement the most friendly

Telegram Received in Cipher.

From

relations with the President of the United States and is equally unwilling to wage a great war against Japan. Besides the United States treaty of 1858 with China says: if any other nation should act unjustly or opprssively, the United States will exert their good offices, on being informed of the case, to bring about an amicable arrangement of the question, thus showing their friendly feelings," and accordingly the present case the difficult circumstancs in which China is placed, should be laid before you. Will your Government do us the great favor to intervene to stop war and re-establish peace. Such an act would be happy for China, happy for every country. "

The above is a special appeal to you. To-day Yamen convoked the Ministers of England, France, Germany, Russia and myself to ask us to telegraph our Governments to intervene to secure peace. She gives as a basis of negotiation, independence of Korea, payment war indemnity (amount to be decided conjointly by foreign powers friendly to China), payable by instalments.

I recommend mediation as a last effort to save dynasty and the empire.

DENBY.

Telegram Received in Cipher.

From

Telegram Received in Cipher.

From

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
DEC 20 1894

No 2011.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 3rd, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 20 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC 20 1894

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Prince Kung made generalissimo of forces at Peking.

Synopsis

His argues well for peace at Peking.

No 2011.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 3rd, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that Prince Kung was yesterday appointed generalissimo of all the imperial troops which are now concentrated in and about Peking. He is to be chief director of military affairs, and Prince Ching has been appointed assistant director. Neither of these gentlemen has

any

any military experience, but their appointment argues well for the preservation of peace in Peking.

The Emperor has cancelled his order that Admiral Ting should be rewarded. He has, also, degraded General Yuei, of the Sheng Division, for mutinous conduct and extortion, and he is handed over to the Board of Punishment for examination and sentence.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Dip
Ack'd & Filed

No 2012.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
DEC30 1894

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 28 1894
DEPT OF STATE

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 4th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

China's appeal for intervention.

Synopsis

Confirms telegram of the 3rd instant submitting the Chinese Government's appeal for intervention.

One enclosure.

No. 2012.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 14th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm in enclosure, herewith, my cipher telegram of yesterday's date, submitting China's appeal for intervention.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure: as above.

1
012

Enclosure in No. 2012.

Greeham, Washington,

November third.

I send by telegraph, at China's expense, the following:

The Princes and Ministers of the Tsungli Yamên to His Excellency the United States Minister.

Yesterday we handed Your Excellency a despatch concerning the Chinese-Japanese question, but, as Your Excellency has but recently returned, the special points of the affair may have escaped your attention, and we, therefore, write this supplementary note.

Corea's tributary relations with China had existed some three hundred years and were recorded in State papers, set forth in treaty documents and never before questioned. Last summer an insurrection broke out in Chullado, and, at the King's pressing request, the Emperor, in accordance with

existing

Enclosure in No. 2012.

Gresham, Washington.

November third.

I send by telegraph, at China's expense, the following:

The Princes and Ministers of the Tsungli Yamên to His Excellency the United States Minister.

Yesterday we handed Your Excellency a despatch concerning the Chinese-Japanese question, but, as Your Excellency has but recently returned, the special points of the affair may have escaped your attention, and we, therefore, write this supplementary note.

Corea's tributary relations with China had existed some three hundred years and were recorded in State papers, set forth in treaty documents and never before questioned. Last summer an insurrection broke out in Chullado, and, at the King's pressing request, the Emperor, in accordance with

existing

existing rules, despatched a
couple of thousand troops to suppress
it. Their arrival had an immediate
effect and their return was about
to be arranged for when, suddenly,
Japanese soldiers also made
their appearance who without
going to the scene of trouble went
straight to the capital, Seoul,
and in a few days their numbers
grew to over ten thousand.
Thereupon there were negotiations
for mutual withdrawal, but Japan
refused to withdraw and subsequently
rejected a further proposal that the
troops of both powers should be
moved back somewhat to avoid
collision and give time for settlement.
In short, in every particular and
at every point, China acted
reasonably and with a due regard
to circumstances, and the original
despatch of troops was entirely in
order and meant neither seizure
of territory nor desire for war. While

in

in the very middle of these attempts to find a solution, the "Kowshing" affair occurred and that was speedily followed by the news of the fight at Yashan - Such were the doings of Japan and nothing remained for China but to accept the war. But China's troops differ from those of foreign countries: other powers have their soldiers for aggressive and defensive warfare, whereas China's have been simply for the preservation of internal quiet and we have no army on a warfooting - Japan, on the other hand, since the beginning of the present reign has been changing and in everything adopting western methods so that her army is now like that of any western power and naturally Chinese soldiers have not been very successful in the engagements that have taken place. China and Japan are the principal powers of the

East

East and their relations ought to
be both friendly and neighborly
but Japan's treatment of the Corean
question has brought war: inasmuchas
even if successful both must be
sufferers, the Pingyang battle was
followed by China with another
attempt at negotiation. As asiatic
empires China and Japan have
no need to hunt each other, and
besides, being connected by treaties,
Japan has no other difficulty
with us nor any cause of offence
to take hold of. Unexpectedly
Japan has pushed forward her
troops and refused negotiation:
how account for such action?
She has now crossed the Yalu
River and entered Chinese
territory in force — she is threatening
the three eastern provinces, and
even an attack on the capital,
Peking, is said to be contemplated!
As for Japan, victory and defeat
are not always certainties and

she

she may fall short of her aim;
and as for ourselves China
regards war as both cruel and
hazardous and is always willing
to make sacrifices to prevent it
and to protect life, so that,
although in no way responsible
for hostilities, there is almost
nothing we would not do to
stop them - Internally and externally
war will be most damaging to
ourselves in the first instance,
but if it continues it must have
consequences detrimental to the
interests of others — at the treaty
ports foreign merchants will be
unable to conduct their business
in peace and in the interior it
may be difficult to extend full
protection to missionaries, and
hence possibly further complications
— and this, assuredly, is not
in the interest of mutual intercourse.
The Emperor desires to conserve
and cement the most friendly

relations

relations with the President of the United States and is equally unwilling to wage a great war against Japan. Besides the United States treaty of 1858 with China says:

"If any other nation should "act unjustly or oppressively, "the United States will exert "their good offices, on being "informed of the case, to bring "about an amicable arrangement "of the question thus showing "their friendly feelings";

and accordingly the present case — the difficult circumstances in which China is placed — ought to be laid before you: will your government do us the great favor to intervene to stop war and re-establish peace? Such an act would be happy for China — happy for every country!

The above is a special appeal to you. Today Yamen convoked

the

the ministers of England, France,
Germany, Russia and myself
to ask us to telegraph our
governments to intervene to secure
peace. She gives as the basis for
negotiations the independence of
Korea, payment war indemnity
— amount to be decided conjointly
by foreign powers friendly to
China payable by instalments.
I recommend mediation as a last
effort to save dynasty and empire.

Denby

Desp

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 14 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
JAN 12 1895

No. 2013.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 4th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 9th 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

China's appeal for mediation.

Synopsis

Account of the conduct of Japan given by the Yamen in an interview of the 3rd instant. Prayer to mediate addressed to the great powers. Proposal made by China set out. Reception at palace assured.

One enclosure.

No 2013.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 4th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that, by request of the Tungli Yamên, the ministers of England, Germany, France, Russia and I had an interview with the Yamên yesterday.

Prince Kung announced that he requested us to forward to our governments telegrams invoking their intervention to

secure

secure peace with Japan. He Prince said that Sun Yü-wên would give an account of the proceedings of Japan up to the time that he became a member of the Yamên and he would then complete the history to date. Sun Yü-wên proceeded to make a statement which will be found substantially in the following despatches from this Legation viz., Nº 1910 of August 4th, Nº 1910 of August 5th and Nº 2010 of October 31st, and my telegram of yesterday's date.

Prince Kung omitted to say any thing about the effort at mediation made by England in October. Being quite privately

interrogated

interrogated thereupon by the British and French ministers, he admitted that such an effort had been made about the middle of October, that the basis thereof was the acknowledgement of the independence of Korea and the payment of a war indemnity. Being asked why he thought that Japan would now accept terms which she had so lately refused (the date of refusal being October 25th) he said that Japan had not positively rejected the proposition but had only refused to accede to it at that particular time, and that its presentation now by the great powers might secure

its

its acceptance.

The foreign ministers agreed that, in this great emergency, they would forward to their respective governments the proposition as made; and, on the very urgent request of the Yamên, they agreed also to recommend mediation.

Knowing by common report that you had refused to join with England in the intervention previously sought, I greatly hesitated to agree to recommend that you should now take part in an effort to mediate. But my refusal to do so would have disconcerted the proceedings, would have caused misconstruction and weakened my influence with the Yamên

Yamên - To recommend mediation seemed simply giving alms to a power which is in the last state of abasement and confronts absolute ruin.

After this meeting was over, I received that portion of my telegram of yesterday which purports to have been furnished by the Yamên. The Yamên had been very urgent in requesting that I would wire entire the message as it reached me. As it, in their view, embodies a strong argument, based on the treaty, in favor of mediation by you, I thought it ought to reach you at the same time as would the telegrams of which the substance has been sent to the governments above

above named as well as Italy.

Before the interview closed each of the foreign ministers was handed an identic communication, of which a translation is enclosed. This paper pathetically sets forth the sorrow of the Emperor and the Empress Dowager and piteously invokes the aid of the foreign powers in this great crisis.

1
2013

I have to observe further that it was announced by the Prince that, in view of the sixtieth anniversary of the birthday of the Empress, as "an act of grace" the foreign ministers would be received in the palace proper for the purpose of presenting their autographic letters of congratulation.

Some

some cavil was had over the term "act of grace", but on enquiry made the Prince stated that the ministers having letters of credence could also present them at the same place and time. The ministers concluded that this procedure would establish a precedent which would ensure that all future receptions would be at the palace and no further discussion occurred.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

The Tsungli Yamen to Mr. Denby

No 53, November 3rd 1894.

Enclosure in No 2013.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

No 53. November 3d 1894.

The Prince and Ministers have the honor to state that since July last war has existed between China and Japan and as to which nation is in the right or wrong is a matter well known among the powers friendly to China. This need not, therefore, be discussed.

Hostilities have not ceased and the situation is becoming serious. His Majesty the Emperor dutifully cherishes a filial feeling towards Her Majesty the Empress Dowager and also cherishes a feeling of kindness and regard for his subjects. He does not wish that Her Majesty should be caused any anxiety or worry and that any distress should befal the living, hence he is willing to agree

that

that hostilities should ceare between the two countries. Japan should remove her troops from Manchuria and China agrees that Corea, in future, shall be independent. China will pay a war indemnity — the amount to be fixed confointly by the powers friendly to China and to be paid within a limited period. China will faithfully carry out the agreement made and in due course pay the amounts as they fall due.

As friendly relations have existed for a long time between China and foreign powers, it is believed that they will, in time of trouble, coöperate and come to China's aid and mediate in the matter in the hope of establishing peace and quietness.

To His Excellency
Charles Denby
etc. etc. etc.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
DEC 22 1894

Secretary of State
DEC 22 1894

DEC 26 1894

No 2014.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 5th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 29 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Extra-territorial jurisdiction

Synopsis

Recognition of correctness of

Department's views thereon.

No 2014.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 5th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 946, of September 18th last, touching the status of Japanese subjects in China.

The correctness of the position taken by you was patent to me after my interview with the Secretary for Foreign Affairs at Tokyo. His opinion has been

confirmed

confirmed by the perusal of
the Japanese ordinance of
August 4th last, and particularly
by articles 6 and 8 thereof.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Dip

Rec'd Dec 24

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC 28 1894

No 2015.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 28 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 5th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

American flag over Japanese public buildings.

Synopsis

Minister Denby refrains from communicating Department's instruction to the consuls, at present, for fear of exciting popular animosity, in view of prevailing disorder.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

DEC 20 1894

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I think Mr. Denby may be told that his course in refraining from acting on the Departments No. 939 of Sept 14th, was discreet and has probably averted misunderstanding and embarrassment. The language of that instruction is subject to important qualification, in that the display of our flag, under

the circumstances contemplated, could indicate nothing more than the measure of unofficial good offices for the protection of Japanese interests consented to by China and authorized by this govt. The flag could not in such case denote any jurisdictional right or obligation, it would merely be a notification of the limited good offices of that agents of the U.S. in respect to the property of Japanese. It may be questionable whether the scope of the unofficial good offices which China permitted our agents to exercise in regard to Japanese

subjects resident in Japan during the course of hostilities comprised such offices in behalf of the public property of the Japanese government situated in China.

In view of the complications inherent in the question, and the abstract character of the propositions involved, your inaction is commended.

Ask

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

DEC 20 1894

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I think Mr. Denby may be told that his course in refraining from acting on the Departments No. 939 of Sept 14th, was discreet and has probably averted misunderstanding and embarrassment. The language of that instruction is subject to important qualification, in that the display of our flag, under ~~be~~ questionable whether the scope of the unofficial good offices which China permitted our agents to exercise in regard to Japanese propositions involved, your action is commended.

adh

Denby:

Copied Dec 24.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON.

Dec 24 1894

Confirming my telegram of the twentieth instant I have the honor to inform you that the Department's instruction of September 14th No 939 was signed by the Assistant Secretary inadvertently.

I am &c

№ 2015.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 5th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch № 939, of the 11th September last.

You therein use the following language: "Raising the flag of "the United States over buildings "owned or occupied in China by "the Japanese Government would "be perfectly proper and according

to

"to precedent".

I have withheld from the consuls the knowledge of this despatch, through fear that they would take it as a direction to raise our flag over the property of the Japanese Government. In this semicivilized country, with anarchy, disorder and the crumbling of the government immediately impending, such a display of our flag would surely be misconstrued and might lead to riots in which all American property might be destroyed.

As the flag has not yet been raised over Japanese property, it is surely wiser not to raise it now at the moment when

the

the Japanese are said to be marching on Peking.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Mit
E I R Jan 14/95

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

From **Peking**

Nov. 6, 1894.

Received 9.29 A.M.

Confirmed Nov. 9. '94

G r e s h a m,

Washington,

November 6. Japanese have taken Foo-Chow in the Gulf of Liau-Tung, approaching Shanhaikuan. two campaigns, against Moukden, Tien-Tsin.

Denby.

This probably means
One column against Moukden
and one against Tien Tsin -
they are in directly opposite
directions from King Chow.

No. 2016.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 6th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my cipher telegram of this date as follows:

"November sixth. Japanese "have taken Foochow in the "Gulf of Liaotung, approaching "Shanhaikuan, two campaigns "against Moukden, Tientsin".

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Dip

c

2d Assistant Secretary
Ack. by Number and File.
DEC 22 1894
COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

No. 2017.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 6th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 26 1894
DEPT. OF STATE
DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC 26 1894

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Jurisdiction over Japanese in China

Synopsis

Encloses leading article from Shanghai Mercury criticising an article by John Russell Young in New York Herald.

One enclosure.

No 2017.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 6th 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State.

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose an editorial from the Shanghai *Mercury* of the 30th October, wherein an article in the *New York Herald*, written by Honorable John Russell Young concerning the case of the two Japanese spies, who were arrested at Shanghai is reviewed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

Clipping as above.

Dip.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC 30 1894

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
DEC 20 1894

No. 2018.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 6th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 28 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Description of the battle of Ping Yang.

Synopsis

Account of the battle of Ping Yang by Mr. de Fleuville in the Japan Mail.

One enclosure.

No 2018.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 6th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a clipping from the Shanghai Mercury of the 30th ultimo giving an account of the battle of Pingyang.

1/2018

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure: Clipping as above.

Enclosure in No. 2018.

THE BATTLE OF PINGYANG.

Mr. A. B. de Guerville writes to the *Japan Mail* as follows:—

The Chinese have been badly routed and have fled North toward the Manchurian frontier. It is likely they will not stop until they get there. Pingyang, the famous stronghold, where from 16,000 to 20,000 of them had surrounded themselves with forts and fortifications, which they thought impregnable, has been taken by the first division of the Japanese army, about 22,000 men, after one day's fighting. The city was defended by 27 forts, and such an amount of fortified works that it is estimated that to build them in the 40 days they spent there 10,000 Chinese must have been at work night and day. In addition to these fortifications, Pingyang is magnificently protected by nature itself. Built on the plateau of a high hill, which it entirely covers and which is extremely high and steep at the North, it is nearly surrounded by a wide river, which protects it at the South, East, and West. Not satisfied with the old, high and thick stone walls, or with their new fortifications, the Chinese crossed the river and built on the other bank a long line of forts, well provided with many cannon, 30 of which were excellent modern quick-firing guns (several Krupps 1890). I have explained in a previous letter how I went in a military transport from Japan to Chemulpo—from there I expected to try to join the army by land, which would have taken at least 8 or 9 days. Upon my arrival, however, the commander of the place, General Yenya, told me that he was sending a transport to the Pingyang river, a 20 hours' run by steamer, and that I should probably be able to reach the army in a day and a half. It was considered quite safe, as Japanese men-of-war were guarding the entrance of the river, and gunboats would of necessity escort us. The river though no steamer had ever entered it, had been surveyed some three years ago by officers of the Japanese navy, and had been reported navigable. After quite a number of experiences, we anchored about 45 miles up the river and 30 miles from Pingyang. The water being too shallow for the steamer to proceed further, a number of army officers who were on board and myself decided to attempt to continue the voyage in small sampans, which we had brought on the steamer's deck. They are flat boats, of the shape of our row-boats, and of course uncovered. We left at 7 in the evening. Two sampans were loaded with provisions and ammunition for the army, another had twenty soldiers on board, and the fourth, beside myself and Japanese servant, 10 officers and 3 soldiers. It was pitch dark when we sailed, and I must say this night trip, up an unknown river surrounded by immense black mountains was most impressive. Packed like sardines in a box, we managed, however, to sleep until about 4 a.m., when I was suddenly wakened by the rain. We were in a dense fog, and soaking wet. My companions, however, did not seem to notice it and kept on snoring, as only Japanese can do. When at last they woke up, by six o'clock, in spite of their uniforms and decorations, they were far from looking dignified. The commander himself looked awfully depressed, especially as he could not find his slippers, and his high riding boots were filled with water. By 10 o'clock, the sun having pierced the fog and the rain having stopped, the temperature, which had been icy during the night, suddenly rose to 93. We were then but a short distance from Pingyang, where the battle was raging. Soon we saw dozens of dead soldiers, and horses and oxen which the river was carrying down to the sea. We arrived in time to see the end of the first day's battle, which had been fought in the following manner.

Two weeks ago the Japanese generals in Seoul decided that the attack should take place on September 15th. The first division of the army was divided into three detachments, the first under General Tatsumi, the second under General Oshima, the remaining division under the Commander-in-chief, General Nozu. The first as seen by the map I sent you, took its position north-east of Pingyang, the second south-east, the third west. Meanwhile, a brigade sent by sea direct from Japan to Gensan had come down from there and seized the Northern roads. The Chinese were therefore completely surrounded. But what cannot be imagined, and what no words can well describe, are the great difficulties presented by the march from Seoul and the suffering and privations of officers and soldiers. The country had been sacked by the Chinese troops, cities and villages had been deserted by the people, and not a bit of provision or water could be found anywhere. Arms, ammunition, artillery, food, had to be carried by pony, and mostly by Japanese coolies brought from Japan. There are over 10,000 of them between the first and second divisions. It would have been impossible to use waggons, as there are no roads at all. This being one of the most mountainous countries in the world, and even paths being scarce, one can easily imagine the difficulty met with by a whole army in march. In addition there were a great many wide and deep rivers, and not one bridge to cross them. In spite of the fatigue and suffering, the soldiers never lost their spirits—they were as well disposed, as full of hope and energy, as happy, as good-natured, and as joyful at the arrival as they were at the start. It must be said that this army is magnificent. The men are well dressed, their arms as good as any in the world, the discipline excellent. I have seen them after forced marches, and even after a battle, looking as well and strong as could be. We are accustomed to hear of the "small" Japanese, but the soldiers of the first division are far from short, and are the best built men in the world. In this they can compare with many European troops, and especially with the Italian troops, which I saw manœuvring a few months since.

In the afternoon of the 14th the Commander-in-chief having heard from the different detachments that they had arrived and had taken up their positions, sent word back to them that they should begin the attack before daylight the following day.

At 8 a.m. on the 15th Gen. Oshima's division marched forward. These soldiers have done nearly all the fighting since the beginning of the war. They are the troops who fought and defeated the Chinese at A-sân. In front of the river the Chinese had erected three very powerful forts, commanding the head of three bridges of flat boats. Five thousand Chinese defended them and the approaches, which are covered with small trees and thick bush. These men were from Tientsin and Port-Arthur, and therefore part of Li Hung-chang's best troops. They were armed with excellent rifles and made a brave, daring, and great fight. They were far superior to the other troops. General Oshima had hardly 3,000 men to fight these 5,000 and their forts. It was from the beginning a hard fought and deadly battle. The Chinese were on the alert and poured a continued and well directed fire from the quick-firing guns of the forts, and a very efficient rifle firing from the bushes. The Japanese, however, managed to gain ground little by little and at 3 in the afternoon they had swept the Chinese from the bush. At that time General Oshima was wounded in the side by a rifle shot, and considering that it would be dark before six, and that his men had had neither

food nor water since 2 a.m., and that nothing could be had on the battle-field, he decided to go back to his last camping-place.

The other detachments had also began the attack before daylight. General Tatsumi, after a hard struggle, by 2 p.m. was master of the forts and hills commanding the city from the East, and but a few hundred yards from the last walls. He then brought together all the artillery at his disposal to bombard the place and make an opening in the high walls for his troops to enter the city. Soon after three, the Chinese raised the white flag above the gate just opposite his guns. Firing was stopped, and the Chinese Commander sent word, begging that the bombarding be stopped and promising that he would surrender the city at daybreak. The General, who was anxious to give his soldiers a rest and something to eat, agreed to this. At 8 p.m., however, when darkness was complete, the whole Chinese army made a *sortie en masse* trying to force their way through the troops of the Commander-in-chief, General Notzu. Failing to do so, they threw their whole cavalry, about 1,250 horses against the Sato detachment commanding the northern road. They were received with a terrific fire, which killed 250 of them. At this minute, taking opportunity of the disorder in which the shooting had put them, 450 Japanese cavalry-men, who were posted between the Nozu and Sato's detachments, made a glorious charge. They came like thunder and lightning upon the Chinese, cutting them to pieces and killing 500 of them. At this place, in front of the Sato's position, the dead bodies of 270 Chinese soldiers and 310 horses were found in a space of 200 yards. While this fighting was going on, however, the remainder of the Chinese army managed to escape, going north by some unknown paths in the mountains. When we entered the city the following morning, it was altogether deserted. Most Koreans had fled from it before the arrival of the Chinese, and the few who had remained had run away with the Chinese, fearing to be killed by the Japanese. The sight presented by Pingyang, I shall never forget. Everywhere was ruin upon ruin. Every house has been thrown open, doors and windows smashed, and chests and boxes broken and sacked by the Chinese. Hundreds of dead Chinamen and Koreans, horses, oxen, pigs, and dogs were lying in their blood, the odors being still worse than the sight. A few scared and barking dogs and some small black pigs running in all directions were the only living things to be seen. The dirt and filth were beyond description. While part of the different detachments were taking quarters as ordered beforehand, the Commander-in-chief and Etat-Major, marched across the city to the palace which had been left a few hours since by the Chinese General. It is a large building surrounded by several belts of stone walls, on high grounds, overlooked the city. It is composed of a very large hall, used also as a reception room, surmounted by an immense Chinese carved roof supported by wooden columns painted red. The front is entirely open and has no doors or windows—the left and back are closed by paper windows; to the right, two paper doors lead to three rooms. Back of this main building are several small ones. In the large hall we found the head of a young and brilliant Japanese Lieutenant who had been wounded the day before while leading his company to the assault of a fort. In the different Chinese forts the heads of over 20 Japanese prisoners were found, frightfully mutilated. The Chinese General having offered considerable sums of money, not only for a Japanese head, but even for part of a head so much for the nose or the ear, many poor and innocent Koreans have been killed, not only by Chinese but by their own people anxious to get rewards. This is simply awful, and it seems to me high time that the civilised nations of the world should express their indignation to the Peking Government, for there is not the slightest doubt that orders came from there. It is proved by the letters and papers left behind, together with love letters, battle, plans, etc., by the Chinese General. How can England support against Japan such barbarians as the Chinese, especially when Japan is on the side of right and justice? Especially when the Japanese are fighting the war of civilisation in Asia? The 700 prisoners of war taken here were treated as well as the Japanese soldiers are. I went to see them this morning. Never before did I see such a miserable lot of wild-looking creatures. They looked more like beasts and savages than men. They were undoubtedly the dirtiest set of people I ever put eyes on—among them are a commander and a number of officers. To those I talked through an interpreter. My presence seemed to scare the life out of them. What was the "Foreign devil" doing here? It is not surprising, as I am the only foreigner here, and my quick arrival in spite of so many difficulties has surprised the Japanese themselves. My presence has created quite a sensation. The Chinese Commander upon any arrival took a Sphinx-like attitude—I opened the conversation by saying that I know Li Hung-chang well, and had often seen him and other officials in Tientsin. The expression on his face immediately changed; he brightened up, smiled, and exclaimed:—

Oh! he is China's great man. If he had always been listened to, China would now be in another position. I knew the American Consul in Tientsin!

Indeed! and do you know Mr. Tenney, the Secretary of the Consulate who is the teacher of Li Hung-chang's boys?

Oh yes, very nice man. I see you know Tientsin!

Yes, how are you treated here?

Oh! so well! so very well!—we are given three meals a day, rice and water, fresh.

Are you not glad they did not cut off your head?

Oh! no words could express our feelings, no words, it is too good, I cannot understand it.

Simply, because Japan is a civilised country. Are you not ashamed, seeing this, of the way you treated Japanese prisoners!

Yes, but it is habit and orders from high places.

I saw the Chinese prisoners at Ujina, in Japan; they were well treated and well provided for, and the Chinese residents in Japan are under protection of the government and have not been annoyed.

Oh! it is very strange and good!

How do you explain your defeat and the victory of the Japanese? The Commander shook his head.

I cannot understand, no I cannot, such a strong place and strong forts. The Japanese soldiers and arms must be very good, I think better than the French in Tonkin. Canton understand.

From there I went to the hospital, where the Chinese wounded are given as good and attentive

care as if they were Japanese. There are 210 of them. The place is admirably arrange and the surgeons I saw at work (modern school of surgery of course) cutting legs and arms, extracting bullets, etc., did it with surprising skill. The quickness and dexterity of the aides, in washing the wounds, sewing them up, dressing them and etc., were amazing. Better could not be done in the New York or Berlin hospitals. I have already mentioned that the Red Cross ambulances, as all the other services of the Japanese, were perfection. The Chinese have none. The surgeon's apparatus, medicines, bandages, etc., the whole as complete as possible are carried in large lacquer chests divided into drawers and compartments. Only three of the Chinese wounded have died. The others have recovered, or at least are in a fair way of getting well again. In returning from there I witnessed two interesting scenes. I was talking with the Commander-in-chief, General Nozu, when four Chinese were brought to the palace. The poor devils were scared to death and dropped upon their knees. They were four boatmen who had been ordered during the battle to the some Japanese officers across the river, and who had done so. Now they were presented with a good sum of money as a reward, and they were told they could go back to China. In order to prevent them being arrested by the advanced guards, or by men-of-war, they were given passports. They could hardly believe it was true. They looked at each other with the greatest fear for a long time not daring to walk away. I noticed none of them had a queue and asked Commandant Muraki why it was. He smiled and answered, well, we had them cut. There are no earthly reasons for a man to wear such a thing. It is a reminder of barbarism. Behind the boatmen stood a Chinese woman, the only one of her sex, Korean or Chinese found in this deserted city. She looked very pretty, interesting, and lady like, in short, quite civilised. She was not scared a bit and spoke freely. I had noticed her the previous evening cooking some food for some Japanese soldiers, and had wondered how a Chinese woman could possibly happen to be there. Now I learned that she is the wife of the Chinese telegraphic operator of Pingyang. She has not been annoyed at all, is absolutely free to go about, has been supplied with food, and which is more and quite wonderful, in this place occupied by 16,000 soldiers and coolies, she, the only, woman here, and an enemy's wife, has been treated with the utmost respect. She had come to ask the release of her husband, who is among the prisoners. Now if all this does not speak highly in Japan's favour and for the magnificent discipline and behaviour of her soldiers, I do not know what will. I hardly know how to express my admiration at all I have seen. It is simply too admirable to be described. Japan is proving that she has a right and a real one to be considered as a great civilised nation. It is high time for the Foreign nations to understand it and to bow to their younger sister. England has already revised the treaties imposed upon Japan. I understand that the Washington Cabinet is not against the idea of doing the same. Why not do it at once and in such a way as to show our great appreciation of Japan's conduct? Some nations are said to object to treaty revision (and the English residents in Japan do so) on the ground that once the Consular Courts are abolished, it would be impossible for foreigners coming under Japanese Jurisdiction to have fair play. Well! I shall only say that if Japan treats (and she certainly will) foreigners in her Courts as she does her enemies on the battle-fields, those, as these, will be better treated than they would in many European countries.

I have visited the camps and forts of the Chinese. These last are very well built, but what filth and dirt everywhere! The camps are full of cooking and porcelain utensils, saddles, bridles, and harness. Everywhere on the walls, on the paths out in the country, are found piles of excellent cartridges of different calibre, mostly for Winchester and Martini rifles. Arms of all description have been picked up, from the finest modern rifles to the oldest swords, lances, arrows, spears, etc., and rifles used a century ago, some long and thin like an Arabian gun. But the strangest sight of all is to meet, at every two or three steps, the Chinese uniforms of blue cotton with large red bands, and hundreds of long queues. As soon as the Chinese soldier finds out that he is beaten, he throws off his uniform and cuts his hair in the hope of passing himself for a Korean! A hair dealer would make a fortune in coming here and picking the endless number of queues. The Chinese left behind them (besides millions of fleas, which seem to have taken me for their head-quarter), 200,000 dollars worth of gold and silver, 30,000 dollars in Korean copper coin; enough rice to feed the whole army for 15 days; many cannon, among which are 34 fine modern quick-firing guns, 1,000 Winchesters, a very large amount of cartridges, and thousands of flags of all kinds and colours. The losses on the side of Japan are 8 officers killed—26 wounded—154 soldiers killed, 421 wounded. About 1,000 Chinese were killed and 700 made prisoners. The number of wounded is supposed to be about 2,000. General Tso Ka-okin is reported to have been killed. As I have said, I am the only foreigner here. I am the guest of Commander-in-chief, General Nozu, at the Staff's head-quarters. The three little rooms in the palace are occupied by the General and his aides and secretary. In the large hall, or reception room, there is a large platform on which the Chinese Commander used to sit with his staff. It is covered with the finest of mats. Screens have been placed around, and it is now my bed room. The nights are as Siberian as the days are tropical, but fortunately the Chinese Commander has left behind some fine silk and velvet blankets, padded with the softest of furs. I enjoy them immensely. The Japanese officers are doing all in their power to bring the Koreans back to theirs cities. These are getting to understand that they have nothing to fear from the Japanese; on the contrary; they can get a great deal of money from them, as the Japanese never take a thing but pay well for all that is brought to them. Every day sees the number of returning Koreans increasing, and even some woman have come back.

Several Regiments are pursuing the Chinese. We shall stay here until the 25th, when General Yamagata will arrive to take command. We shall then proceed North to Wi-ju, on the Chinese frontier, where the Chinese will make another attempt at fighting, it is supposed.

Dip

C

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.

DEC 26 1894

No 2019.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 8th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Copy to Sec Navy Dec 12 '94

Subject

Movements of men-of-war.

Synopsis

Explains the attitude of this Legation as to the request of the Chinese Government that the movements of American men-of-war be announced beforehand.

No. 2019.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 8th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

It seems desirable to explain the attitude of this Legation as to the request of the Chinese Government, referred to in the Legation's despatch No. 1908, of the 4th August, and in the Department's despatch No. 945, of the 17th September, that the movements of American ships be previously notified.

It

It appears from the archives of this Legation that, at the date at which China made this request, the greatest uncertainty and uneasiness prevailed in Chinese goivernment circles. The Yamên lastly made requests some of which were of questionable propriety but the time was not a proper one to enter into a discussion with them. The Yamên was, however, advised by the Chargé d'affaires that this Legation had no power to dictate to the United States naval authorities as to the movements of their ships and that a request from him that their approach be announced

announced in advance would
have no force whatever. His
recommendation for a favorable
consideration of the Yamên's
despatch was a mere courtesy
and was so understood.

That there was no misapprehension
on the part of the chargé
d'affaires in the matter is
shown by subsequent correspondence.
When the Chinese authorities
proposed to exercise force against
vessels failing to comply with
their arbitrary regulations for
entering ports, their responsibility
therefor was forcibly pointed
out to them. Not only was
the government at Peking
informed that any attempt to
enforce

enforce the said rules would be at their own risk but also the local authorities at other places where the question arose viz. Tientsin, Ningpo and Shanghai, were similarly notified.

This matter was referred to in the Legation's despatches to the Department No. 1920, of the 10th and No. 1928 of the 15th August. These despatches leave no doubt as to the attitude of the Legation and indicate a clear perception and proper assertion of the rights of American men-of-war.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Cip

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.
Secretary of State.
NOV 13 1894

From Peking,

Nov. 10. 1894.

Confirming Nov. 14/94

NOV14 1894

GRESHAM,

Washington, D.C.

November 10. Yamen favorably inclined to accept sole mediation of the President-if Japan accepts China will instantly. China embarrassed by the proposition made by them to the five other powers to intervene and cannot give positive answer to your proposal until she knows whether they will intervene or not.

DENBY.

Dip

File

No 2020.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 10th, 1894.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 26 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Confirms telegrams re mediation.

Two enclosures.

No 2020.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 10th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram, copy of which is herewith enclosed, which reached me at 7.25 p.m. November 8th; also of your telegram, confirmed in enclosure No 2 herewith, which reached me at 12.30 p.m. November 9th.

1/2020

2/2020

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosures:

1. Mr. Gresham to Mr. Denby,
telegram Nov. 6. 1894.

2. Same to same Nov. 7. 1894.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2020

Mr. Gresham to Mr. Denby.

Telegram. November 6th 1894.
8.40 p.m.

Denby, Minister, Peking.

Confidential - Prompted by that sincere and disinterested friendship which the United States constantly desire to show towards China, the President directs that you intimate this readiness to tender his good offices towards bringing the present war with Japan to a close on terms alike honorable to both nations, should he be assured that such a tender would be acceptable to both

Gresham.

Received in cipher 6 p.m. Nov. 8. 1894.

Enclosure 2 in No: 2020.

Mr. Gresham to Mr. Denby.

Telegram. November 7th 1894.

Denby, Minister, Peking.

My telegram to you of this date was sent before receipt of your communication of China's note, requesting the President to tender his good offices towards an honorable termination of the war. China's similar request addressed to the great European powers may somewhat embarass the President's freedom of action. On October sixth abases the British Chargé d'Affaires, under instructions, asked if the United States would join England, Germany, France and Russia, in intervention between China and Japan on the basis of a joint guarantee of Koreas. independence of status quo shall be maintained and such an indemnity to Japan for war necessary expenses.

On

On the 12th, the President declined any joint intervention.

My instruction of today, on which you are expected to act, largely anticipates China's request. The President is hopeful he will be speedily be informed that the offer of his mediation alone, addressed today to both belligerents, is acceptable, when he will gladly aid them by conference at this capital or in any other practicable way.

Gresham.

Received in cipher 12.30 p.m.

Nov. 9th 1894.

Note: Groups in red ink unintelligible and meaning supplied where possible.

The word abacco 10085 was correctly sent 50085 = sixth

shall be maintained 38484
the group sent was = 34963 = independence
Mr Denby read USTAQO meaning Korea's in letter code, for status quo!

aenby to Offle

No 2021.

DIPLOMATIC AU.

DEC30 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 10th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 28 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Confirms telegram of this date

No 2021.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 10th 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of this date, as follows:

"Gresham Washington.

"November 10th. Yamên is

"favorably disposed to

"accept sole mediation of

"the President. If Japan

"accepts China will instantly.

"China embarrassed by the

proposition

"proposition made by them
"to the five other powers
"to intervene and cannot
"give positive answer to
"your proposal until the
"knows whether they will
"interiene or not."

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Clip

Received Dec 26.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

DEC 22 1894

No 2022.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 10th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU REC'D DEC 28 1894 DEPT. OF STATE

Appeal

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Mediation between China and Japan.

Synopsis

Mr. Denby communicates to the Yamên the President's willingness to use good offices towards closing the war. China anxious to accept. Embarrassed by proposals to other powers.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

DEC 20 1894

Dear Mr. Secretary

You will wish to see this.

ABA

Mackinnon[illegible] Despl
of this despatch Mention
Should be made of the fact
that it was not until
Chinese troops had actually
arrived [illegible]

№ 2022.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 10th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

On the receipt of your telegrams of November 6th and 7th respectively, (which have been confirmed in my despatch № 2020 of this date,) I called on the Tsungli Yamên. Three ministers were present — Sun Yü-wên, Hsü Yung-i and Wang Wên-shuan.

must

I stated, in substance, to

the

the ministers that the President of the United States found himself unable to agree to join in intervention or mediation with other powers, touching the war between China and Japan, but that, prompted by friendship for China, he would consent to use his good offices towards bringing the present war to a close, if his role mediation were accepted by both belligerents.

The ministers, at first, seemed very anxious to accept this offer immediately - After some discussion, however, they came to the conclusion that until they had heard from the

the five powers, to wit England, France, Germany, Italy and Russia, whose intervention they had asked, it would not be prudent to adopt a course of action which ignored them.

They said they had been informed by their minister at Washington that the President had tendered his good offices to Japan and if Japan accepted them China would instantly do so.

They promised to communicate with me on the subject again as soon as they heard from the powers above named.

I took occasion to say that the course of the Yamên in making

a

a special appeal to the United States and then calling on five other powers to intervene in her behalf was contradictory and embarrassing. This they frankly admitted, but said in excuse that their condition was such that they were compelled to look for aid wherever they might hope to find it

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Dip
ackg to File

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
DEC 30 1894

No 2023.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 11th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 28 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Mediation between China and Japan.

Synopsis

Confirms Department's telegram of the 8th instant.

No 2023.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 11th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm your cipher telegram of the 8th instant as follows:

"While President prefers to
"act alone, he will not decline
"request to act jointly with
"other powers simply in
"determining amount of
"indemnity, if consent of Japan
"is obtained."

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Dip

DIPLOMATIC BU[illegible]
DEC 21 1894

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
DEC 21 1894

No 2024.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 13th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 29 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the ✓ Secretary of State. Dec 27

Subject

Audience with Emperor November 12th.

Synopsis

Description of audience.

No 2024.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 13th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the reception by the Emperor of the foreign ministers, for the purpose of presenting congratulatory letters from the various chiefs of states, on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the birthday of the Empress Dowager, took place in the Wên Hua Pavilion

Pavilion in the Prohibited City, the 12th instant. This is the first time that a reception of foreigners has ever takenplace in the same enclosure in which the imperial palace is situated.

An account of the ceremonial observed will be found in enclosure No. 1.

1/2024

On being ushered into the imperial presence, I maide the remarks which are set forth in enclosure No. 2.

2/2024

I note the fact that the foreign representatives passed through the central Ch'ien Hua Gate. In Chinese gates there are a central passage and two smaller portals, one on each side.

Through

Through the central passage no person except the emperor ever passes. In Chinese estimation, great honor was conferred on us by permitting us to enter the courtyard in which the reception hall is situated by the central passage.

The delivery of the letter of the President was done exactly as specified in enclosure 1.

A translation of the remarks the Emperor made on receiving the letter is enclosed herewith.

3
2024

The place in which the audience was had is called the Chien Hua Tien or Pavilion. It is one of the four throne halls

of

of the "Nei Ko" — Grand Secretariat or Imperial Chancery, literally Inner Cabinet or Hall — and is situated in the southeastern part of the palace grounds proper near the Tung Hua or Eastern Flowery Gate.

In this pavilion the emperor hears the Confucian canons expounded in spring and autumn by literary officials appointed for the purpose. Its name is also the designation of the first Grand Secretary, a title held at present by Li Hung-chang.

It is surrounded on the south, east and west by several pavilions, the most conspicuous of which

is

is the Chuan Hsin Hall, a part of which was set apart as a reception room for the diplomatic body. We proceeded in chairs to the Jung Hua Gate.

I was accompanied by Mr. Charles Denby Jr., Secretary and Mr. J. D. Cherbine, Interpreter. At the Jung Hua Gate, we left the chairs and entered through the right or northern portal. We were met inside by a large number of blue button mandarins who conducted us across a large courtyard to a pavilion where we awaited the arrival of the other ministers and their suites. The rooms were neat and were comfortably heated

by

by four copper braziers.

Soon Prince Kung and Prince Ching and other members of the Yamen arrived and saluted us.

In a few moments we were asked to go to the ante-rooms near the audience hall. These were small temporary structures, covered with blue cotton.

My secretaries and I were soon conducted by a minister of the Yamên towards the audience hall. We passed through an ornamental gate, called the Wên Hua Gate, having three portals, standing directly in front of the Wen Hua Pavilion, and ascended ten stone steps.

His

This pavilion is a large building in the usual style of Chinese architecture, with yellow tiles and overhanging eaves.

The Emperor sat on a raised platform. Lines of eunuchs and mandarins stood to the right and left of the room. The Emperor was dressed in plum colored satin, having dragons embroidered on the shoulders and breast. His hat was a Chinese official winter hat of dark fur but displaying no button. Behind the Emperor was a wooden screen having characters in gold on it. Prince Ko, a Manchu, Minister of the Presence, stood on the

Emperor's

Emperor's left; on his right
stood a Mongol Prince and on
each side there were mandarins.

It has been reported that
the Emperor has been sick. His
appearance indicates recent
illness. He was pale and thin.
His eyes were large and bright.
He was dignified and self-
possessed.

This audience was more
ceremonious than the audience
of 1891. There were many more
attendants, and several thousand
soldiers who were armed with
short curved swords.

I learn that there are fifteen
hundred eunuchs in the prohibited
city, staying in that portion
where

where the Emperor has his residence. There are fifty thousand soldiers at or near the gates.

Audience having once been had in the prohibited city, it may safely be said that no foreign minister will ever accept audience any where else. It is curious, also, to note how easy and satisfactory to the Emperor, as well as to the foreigners, this audience was, in view of the terrible inconvenience and difficulty which have always been set forth as reasons for refusing audience in the palace precincts.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosures:

1. Ceremonial to be observed at Audience.

2. Minister Denby's remarks in presenting President's letter.

3. Emperor's reply to Minister Denby.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2024.

Ceremonial to be observed at the audience of Foreign Representatives to be held November 12th for the presentation of autograph letters.

In front of the throne there will be a yellow table. Prince Kung and Prince Ching will be standing to the right of His Majesty.

The Ministers of the Tsungli Yamên will enter the first minister, with his secretaries and interpreters, who will enter the central Wên Hua Gate, passing over the raised walk and proceed to the Wên Hua Pavilion, passing through the central door where the Minister will bow for the first time. He will go forward a few paces and make a second bow, and on reaching the place where he will take up his position between

the

the dragon pillar he will bow again.

He will then read his address, after which the interpreter who accompanies him will read the translation of the address. After this he will advance to the foot of the middle steps, holding his letter, which he will hand to Prince Kung or Prince Ching, who will descend by the right steps and come up to him to receive it. The Prince will then ascend the platform by the middle steps and place the letter on the table. At that moment the Foreign Minister will bow and His Majesty will also bow, thereby acknowledging to have received the letter.

The Minister will then return to his former place between the dragon pillars, where he will wait. Prince Kung and Ching will then kneel at the right of the table

and

and listen to His Majesty's
reply in Manchu. They will then,
descending the right steps, advance
to where the Minister is standing
and deliver His Majesty's remarks
in Chinese. After this is done the
foreign minister will make a bow,
which will be acknowledged by
a bow from His Majesty.

The ushers will then conduct
the minister, who will retire
backwards, making a bow after
a few paces and another at the
east door, through which he will
leave the hall and descend by
the eastern steps passing out of
the east Ben Hua Gate

Each audience will be conducted
according to the same ceremonial.

Enclosure 2 in No. 2024.

Remarks made by Minister Denby, on presenting the President's autograph letter to the Emperor, November 12th 1894.

Your Majesty:

I have been charged, by the President of the United States of America, with the duty of presenting to Your Majesty his autograph letter, tendering his congratulations on the auspicious occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the birthday of Her Majesty the Empress Dowager.

In this letter, the President pays fitting tribute to the exalted character of Her Majesty, to her benevolence, her wisdom and her greatness.

I now have the honor to present to Your Majesty the autograph letter of the President with which I am entrusted

Enclosure 3 in No 2024.

The Emperor's reply to Minister Denby, delivered through Prince Kung.

Your Excellency:

In acknowledging the receipt of the President's letter of congratulations on the sixtieth anniversary of the birthday of Her Majesty the Empress Dowager, the Emperor requests you to express to the President his cordial thanks therefor, and to say that the friendly sentiments that prompted him to send it are an indication of the relations of amity and peace which exist between the United States and China, and which the Emperor sincerely hopes will ever continue to exist.

Dip

file

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. The matter was acted upon when his telegram reached the Dept.
DEC 20 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC 20 1894

No 2025.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 13th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 20 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Appointment of a second secretary.

Synopsis

Confirms telegram of this date asking the appointment of Edward K. Lorey as Second Secretary of this Legation.

No 2025.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 13th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State.

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of this date as follows:

"Beg appointment Edward
"K. Lowry, Ohio, resident
"Peking, Second Secretary.
"He will resign when rush
"over."

Edward K. Lowry is the son of Rev. H. H. Lowry, who is the

the Head of the Methodist
Episcopal Mission at Peking.
He was for a short time in
the Imperial Maritime Customs
and recently left that service
to engage in mission work.
His parents are from Ohio.
He is an American citizen.
He does not desire to retain
the position of second secretary
any longer than is absolutely
necessary and stipulates that he
be permitted to resign as soon
as I can dispense with his
services.

He was educated at Oberlin
College. He speaks Chinese.

I asked for his appointment
as second secretary because

the

the business of this Legation
is too great to be satisfactorily
done by one secretary. Should
my first secretary go on leave,
I would practically be without
assistance in the general work
of the Legation. Undoubtedly
the interpreter would do
what he could find time to
do, but his own work practically
occupies all his time. My own
time is too valuable, in this
crisis, and too constantly
filled with important business
to permit of my copying despatches.
For these reasons I urge the
appointment asked.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Desp
Oath to Mr. Loury
7. No C.
Sep.

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REC'D
DEC 28 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC 30 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 15th, 1894.

Mr. Loury to the

Secretary of State.

Recd. Dec. 31.

Subject.

Mr. Loury's Oath of Office.

One enclosure.

Sep.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 15th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge with profound thanks my appointment as Second Secretary of this Legation.

I do not expect to hold the position permanently and will resign when the existing emergency has passed.

1 I enclose my Oath of Office taken this day.

I

I have the honor to be,

Sir:

Your obedient servant,

Edward K. Lowry.

Enclosure:

Mr. Lowry's Oath of Office.

Gip

acdby to file

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC30 1894

No. 2026

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 15th, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 26 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

Mr. Lowry nominated as Second Secretary.

Synopsis.

Confirms Department's telegram of the 13th instant.

No. 2026

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 15th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 13th instant, as follows:

"Lowry appointed on terms
"stated; take oath."

This telegram reached me at ten minutes to three o'clock, P. M., yesterday. I return profound thanks for your prompt kindness.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 28 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

Vacancy subject
Jany 7.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 7 1895

No 2027

Confidential.

Legation of the United States
Peking, November 16th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

The Condition of China.

Synopsis

Universal corruption. Abuses in the Army. Helplessness of China. Dangers anticipated at Peking. The Ministers will remain here.

No. 2027

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 16th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

History, I think, furnishes no parallel with the condition of China. There have occurred other examples of nations going to war while unprepared therefor, but such utter governmental blindness to its own want of preparation and such folly in drifting into a conflict have never been exhibited elsewhere.

The foundation of the misfortunes of

of China lies in the overwerning conceit
fostered by seclusion and ignorance
among its governing classes. Proud,
haughty, bound up in ceremonial,
absolutely ignorant of foreign affairs,
the rulers of China are the least
intelligent of her respectable people.

Every-body always knew that
the grossest abuses existed in the
civil service. Among the highest and
the lowest officials open and unlimited
corruption existed. It was the
universal practice for all officials
to "squeeze" the people. No business,
judicial or other, was transacted
without the exaction of bribes. No
contract was ever made without
a fraudulent provision to compensate
the agent and to cheat the government.

Their

This corruption permeated all classes. Speculation extended through domestic life and servants levied clandestine tribute on every purchase made by their master.

The merchants and bankers alone stood in splendid contrast to this general demoralization. Absolute faithfulness and honesty characterize private financial dealings in China. This statement is so just that Mr. Cameron, manager of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, could, and did, truthfully say that the bank had had dealings to the amount of hundreds of millions of pounds sterling with the Chinese merchants, and had never lost a dollar. Even now in Japan, in all foreign

foreign banking institutions, Chinese are employed in preference to Japanese.

Naturally the abuses prevalent in civil life are intensified in the Army. There is in this country absolutely no patriotism. The people know the government only by its oppression. There is not in the army the least esprit de corps.

The current abuses which are daily detailed, and not denied, are almost inconceivable. Piles of shells made of mud have been exhibited as the real article; provisions have proved worthless, high priced guns useless; regimental lists of men have been fictitious; commanding officers have embezzled military funds; men have gone without pay. The armies are a

a rabble. Desertion in large numbers is of every day occurrence. Peking is full of soldiers but their inefficiency is so notorious that the proposition to send them to the front is received with derision. The reputation of Li-Hung-chang has been shown to be based on pretence. He has been surrounded by parasites who have levied tribute on all comers. The two good traits in his character are that he has been just to the foreigner, and he has favored material progress. As a political adviser he is responsible for this war. His fatuous treatment of the Korean question, permitting Korea to make treaties wherein her absolute independence was asserted, and claiming at the same time that she

was

was a vassal of China, is the direct cause of present hostilities.

Among the officials of China there is not one who seems to possess the qualities of leadership. They are mostly old, ignorant, distinguished only for nepotism and greed. From this statement I am inclined to except Chang Chih-tung, but he is a scholar and not a soldier. Prince Kung, the present chief of the foreign office, is in bad health, loves his ease, and has done no service since 1884.

As to the boy emperor, from personal knowledge little can be said. He is frail and sickly. The manner of his life promises little good for the future of China. He lives among fifteen hundred eunuchs, has several

wives, but has no hope of a son.
He is secluded from his people who
have not the least affection for him.
He is a Manchu and naturally
rumors are current that his dynasty
will be overthrown and that he will
be replaced by a Chinese successor.

Having been several years here
while the Empress Dowager was on
the throne, I formed a high opinion
of her intelligence. If, as is said,
she favored this reckless war, that
opinion must be modified. The
exacting of contributions on her anniversary
also detracts from her greatness. She
has made large donations to the war
fund, which is to her credit. Speculation
is rife as to whether she would seize
the throne in case the emperor should
abdicate

abdicate. I doubt whether such a result could be peacefully attained. She is credited with such an intuition which derives some appearance of probability from the fact that she is protecting Li Hung-chang and keeping him in position.

The importance of the crisis in China cannot be overestimated. Its condition nearly approaches chaos. Officials are removed and changed daily; the armies are utterly demoralized, and corruption stalks abroad more openly than ever.

Residents of Peking, native and foreign, are sending their families away. The Chinese imagine that the Japanese will burn the city and massacre the inhabitants. Except two

two English ladies and the ladies of the various American missions, all others have left the city. Some of my colleagues talk of having. Port Arthur is besieged and the way to Peking seems open. China, meanwhile, has but one aspiration — peace at any price. Guided by kindly sentiments for this people expressed by the President, I shall, in all manners consistent with my duties, assist this government by advice. In its helplessness watchfulness it turns with childlike confidence to us.

I shall stay here as long as duty requires me to be at my post. If the Emperor and court flee, the wires are cut and residence here

here however unavailing for diplomatic service, I may go to some place where I can receive your directions.

Already prices are going up greatly here and terror is in the air. Riots are prophesied by many and the probability of their occurrence is denied by others. We must wait events.

Before you read these lines it is probable that the fate of China will have been decided.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

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DEC 28 1894
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TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
DEC 28 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC 28 1894

No 2028.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 16th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Rules for preventing collisions at Sea.

Print

No 2028.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 16th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 956, of the 8th ultimo, with reference to identic rules adopted by the United States, France and Great Britain, for the prevention of collisions at sea.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

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DEC 28 1894

Vacaby subject to copy?

Ans 6 subject

DIPLOMATIC
JAN 7 1895

No. 2029.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, November 17, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Assault on the Chungking.

Synopsis

China fired 21 guns as a salute in reparation of the insult to the British flag.

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No. 2029.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, November 17, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In dispatch No. 1925 of the 14th August this Legation had the honor to report to you the assault by Chinese soldiers upon the Japanese passengers on the British ship "Chungking", at the Tongku coal wharf, near Tien-tsin.

The proper reparation for this insult to the British flag has since been the subject of negotiation between

between the British authorities and the Chinese Government.

I have now the honor to report that the arrival of the Chungking at Taku, on the 14th instant, en route to Tientsin, the white British ensign was run up at one of the Chinese forts and a salute of 21 guns fired. The Chungking dipped her flag and passed on to Tien-tsin. This closes the incident as far as the British Government is concerned but no reparation has as yet been made for the losses of the Japanese.

I have the honor to be,

Sir.

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

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Jackson Cabinet January 7

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DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 7 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 19, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Mediation between China and Japan.

Synopsis.

Mr. Denby has notified the Yamên of President's willingness to cooperate in determining the amount of indemnity to be paid by China to Japan in case of mediation.

No 2030.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 19 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham,
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the consent of the President to act with other powers in determining the amount of war indemnity to be paid by China to Japan was communicated by me to the Tsungli Yamen.
I also stated that the consent of Japan was necessary.
The Ministers stood in reply that the

the willingness of the President to act
in the sense indicated was a cause
of congratulation to China; that they
understood fully that no indemnity could
be agreed on unless Japan consented
to submit to arbitration; and they
thanked me for communicating the
President's readiness to act with others
should occasion arise, as well as for
my kindness to China in her present
difficulties.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Secretary of State
DEC 29 1894

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No 203 Jack" by subject. Dec 31.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, November 21st, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject-

Conduct of former Chinese students in America in battle.

Synopsis.

Four former students distinguished and promoted for gallantry.

Two killed.

No 2031.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, November 21. 1894

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

It is well known to the Department and the country that in 1872 China sent to the United States thirty boys to be educated. Others were sent afterwards.

These boys were put in charge of Yung Wing, a graduate of Yale.

Charges were made that the boys were losing, or had lost, their

their patriotism, and in 1881 they were all recalled, and unfortunately, for China, their system of education was abandonned.

This Legation, and the American friends of these boys have watched with interest their carrers since their return. My predecessor in his dispatch No. 102 of December 12, 1884 (Foreign Relations 1885 pg. 144) was pleased to chronicle, and to report the gallant conduct of five of these students during the action with the French at Foochow, wherein one lost his life.

It affords me equal pleasure to report the distinguished bravery and gallantry displayed by some of these American students in the great

great naval battle off the mouth of the Yalu river the 17th day of September last.

The Viceroy Li Hung Chang was directed after that battle to recommend ten persons for distinction, selecting only those who were engaged therein. Of the ten persons so recommended four were former American students.

As a matter of interest to the New England friends of these young men I give here the names, together with some information as to their antecedents.

Woo Yin Tsio. He studied in the Sheffield Scientific School, New Haven Ct. Since 1882 he served in the Northern Squadron. He has

been

been brevted Commander with a red button of the second rank, and with special decorations for bravery and good service. He belonged to the second detachment of Chinese students to America.

Tsoa Kan Cheong. He studied first in North Hadley Mass., in Mr. Lansing's family, then graduated at Phillips' Academy Exeter, N. H. He served since 1852 in the Northern Squadron. He has been breveted to the rank of Captain, has a red button of the second rank, and now commands a steel Cruiser. He belonged to the third detachment of the Chinese students.

Tsu Chung Tong. He studied in.

in an academy in Massachusetts
He served since 1882 in the Northern
Squadron. He has been brevetted to
the rank of Captain, has a red
button of the second rank, and
is first officer of one of the cruisers.
He belonged to the third detachment
of students.

Blum Bon Quan. He studied in
a Connecticut school. He served
in the Northern Squadron since
1882. He has been brevetted to
the rank of Captain; has a
button of the second rank; is
now first officer in one of the
iron clads, and is chief of the
gunnery department. He belonged
to the fourth detachment of students.
Two former American students
have

have lost their lives and have posthumous honors to-wit:

Chin Jin Quai. He studied in North Hadley Mass., was at Phillips academy Exeter in the class of 1882. Thereafter he served in the Northern Squadron; was first-officer of the steel cruiser "Chih Yuen", which was sunk by Japanese shells. Among the dozen men who were saved was Chin Jin Quai. He had lost an arm in the fight and died the next-day. His body was buried with honor and his family will be pensioned. His son will receive a little. He was thirty one years old, and belonged to the fourth detachment of students.

Shun-Dow-Cheong

Blum Bau Cheong. He studied
in a school in Massachusetts.
He served in the torpedo service -
in the cruiser "Chi Yuen".
He was killed while escorting the
Kowshing. He was buried with
the honor of an officer of the third
rank. His son will be pensioned.
These distinguished examples
sufficiently show that an education
in the United States does not
diminish the patriotism & bravery
of the Chinese students.
I shall take occasion at the proper
time to cite to the Tsungli Yamên
the record herein set forth as an
inducement to China to revive
the educational system whose results
have been so satisfactory.

I be

The facts pertaining to the young men above mentioned were furnished by Mr. Liang Sheng, who was himself a student in America.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

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REC'D.
DEC 27 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

Legation of the U.S. in China
November 23. 1894

Telegram received in Cipher

Peking Nov 23 1894

Gresham: Washington.

November 23 yesterday China made through me direct overtures to Japan for peace: basis independence Korea war indemnity. unless peace made ask Secretary of the Navy strengthen Monocacy crew fifty men for service Peking.

Denby.

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REC'D.
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DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
DEC 28 1894

No 2032.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 23rd, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

Vetted Jany. 3/95.

Subject

Asks that "Monocacy's" crew be strengthened

Synopsis

Marines may be needed to protect Americans at Peking.

Telegram confirmed.

Mr. Denby's telegram is not on the files, & there is no record of its having been communicated to Navy Dept. The books show, however, that it was replied to, on Nov. 26, as follows:

"Instructions sent as suggested in your telegram of 23d."

W. W. Riddle

P.S. Mr Riddle said yesterday that the telegram from Mr. Denby had been personally shown to the Secy of the Navy & that the "Monocacy" could have been Seattle

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

DEC 29 1894

Ack, confirming Dept's telegram of 26th, or referring to it if it has been already confirmed.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
DEC 28 1894

Mr. adee

What action was had on Mr. Denby's telegram. Did it go to the Secy of the Navy, and what did he do?

adee

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Encl 1
23 11

No. 2032.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 23rd, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of this date as follows:

"Unless peace made, ask
"Secretary of the Navy
"strengthen Monocacy crew
"fifty men for service Peking."

When I arrived at Peking, I found considerable fear existing of riots occurring if the

the Japanese should approach the city. All the ladies except the Americans and two English and the members of the Catholic Missions had left and some of the foreign ministers were talking of leaving.

There was a meeting of the foreign representatives and it was agreed that each one would procure fifty marines to be sent up from Tientsin, in case of emergency, to protect the foreigners against a mob. In pursuance of this agreement, I wrote to Rear Admiral Carpenter asking him to send fifty men to the Monocacy, who should be subject to my request to be

sent

sent to Peking. I did this because the commander of the Monocacy had represented to this Legation that he could not spare fifty men and could send nobody to Peking without orders from the Admiral or the Secretary of the Navy. In reply to a second letter, the first not having then reached him, the Admiral wired me that he could not comply with my request without orders from the Secretary.

We have about sixty Americans here. We have all the ladies but two Englishwomen and the members of the Catholic missions, and there are many

American

American children here. More than all other nationalities we require protection.

No harm can possibly arise from temporarily strengthening the crew of the Monocacy. Assuredly I will not ask that any marines or sailors be sent hither unless imminent danger exists. If the Emperor and his Court leave Peking, there may be no government here. Disbanded and defeated soldiers may crowd into the city and great disorders may arise.

In view of the fact that China has made overtures for peace, it may be unnecessary to take any action in this matter,

but

but I deemed it my duty to prepare for contingencies.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Dip

Mint
E I R
Nov 14/94

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Secretary of State.
NOV 24
1894

From Peking November 24, 1894.

Received 9.05.A.M.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
NOV 24 1894

Gresham,

Washington.

November 24. Port Arthur taken 22d.

Denby.

Confirmed Nov. 28/94

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Accepted subject, Jany 2 95

No 2033.

JAN 7 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Overtures for peace made by China

Synopsis

Overtures for peace made by China to Japan through the American Minister. By authority of China Mr. Denby telegraphs to Government of Japan making overtures.

Telegram confirmed.

One enclosure.

No 2033.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I received your telegram of the 19th inst. at 8 P.M. the 20th.

I confirm the same as follows:
"Our Minister at Tokio is advised that any direct ventures for peace made by China through the American Minister at Peking will be considered."

Early

Early in the morning of the 20th I sent a note to the Yamên stating that I desired to see the Prince and Ministers on business of importance to China, and, that, unless otherwise advised, I would go to the Yamên at 11 A.M. An answer came that the Yamên would see me at 3 P.M.

At that hour I had an interview with six of the Ministers. Prince Kung was not present, because, as was stated, he had pressing duties elsewhere.

I informed the Ministers that I was advised by my Government that Japan would consider any direct overtures for peace made by China to her through myself.

I

I stated that I supposed that this intimation from Japan had been brought about by the President in pursuance of the general tenor of the advices which had reached him from China through me.
The Ministers seemed quite pleased at the proposal so made. There lurked behind their gratification an idea that Japan made this proposal on account of certain alledged repulses recently suffered at Port Arthur. As I had little faith in these repulses I did not lend myself to this suspicion.
I explained very thoroughly through my Interpreter the position that

I

I rcmpied, stating again and
again that China had invoked
the mediation of the United States,
that Japan had apparently
concluded that in view of her
victories no mediation was
necessary, and she demanded
that China should herself make
direct ventures for peace.
I gave the Minister most
distinctly to understand that
I proposed to act simply as an
intermediary, that I would state
the basis of negotiations, but they
themselves would have to arrange
the details, that my Government, as
I understood would be glad
to see peace established, and as
Japan desired no mediation, but
would

would consider "direct" ventures from China I was prepared to send such ventures in cipher to the Minister of the United States at Tokio to be by him presented to the Government of Japan.

I stated that I wanted written authority to act in this matter and I submitted for their approval the following paper in Chinese and English: "China authorizes and requests Mr. Denby, Minister of the United States at Peking, to make direct ventures for peace to the Government of Japan.

As a basis for peace China consents to recognize the independence of Korea and to pay a reasonable war indemnity.

China

China asks that pending negotiations an armistice be declared during the existence whereof neither belligerent shall change his condition."
The Yamên informed me that an answer would be sent to me the 22d instant.

About one o'clock P.M. of the 22d four members of the Yamên to-wit: Sun Yu wen, Hsu Yung-i, Chang Yin-huan and Wang Wen-huan came to see me.

They delivered to me the paper of which a translation is enclosed.

1/2033

It will be noticed that the paper says nothing about an armistice.

I called attention to this omission and

and a lengthy discussion ensued. The Ministers were not all acquainted with the rules of international law, and it was difficult to make them understand them. As belligerents in agreeing to an armistice usually stipulate terms, I judged it best to omit in my first despatch any allusion to a suspension of hostilities. That result will probably follow the opening of negotiations for peace. I then produced the following draft of a telegram, had it translated verbally into Chinese and asked if I should send it. I was told to do so. It is as follows:

Peking, November 22, 1889.

American

American Minister Tokio.

Please deliver following:

"Secretary of State for
"Foreign affairs of Japan.
"China authorizes and
"requests me to make
"direct ventures for peace.
"Basis the recognition of
"the independence of Korea.
"Payment reasonable war
"indemnity."

The above was then put into cipher and taken by the Ministers to be sent to the Telegraph office immediately, which I could not do as the gates were closed. To complete this transaction to date I confirm my telegram of to-day

to-day as follows:

"Yesterday Lima made
"through me direct
"ouvertures to Japan
"for peace."

X X X X

I omit the latter portion as it relates to a different matter, and will be presented separately.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby

No. 54, November 22nd, 1894.

Enclosure in No 2033.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby

No 54

Peking November 22 1894

On account of the war at present existing between China and Japan, the Govt of the United States, entertaining a sincere regard for a friendly power, is willing under the provisions of article 1st of the Treaty of 1858, to exert its good offices to bring about an amicable arrangement of the question.

The Chinese Government also now writes that Wu Ju-lun should duly will, on behalf of China, directly state to Japan in order to arrange (the present difficulties) that Chinese —

agrees

agree to the independence
of Corea and will pay Japan
a war indemnity, the amount
to be justly and reasonably decided.
Since the United States
Minister has the authority
to act in this matter, it is
right for the Chinese Government
to request him to make known
to China the views of Japan
as well as transmit to Japan
the views of China for due
consideration, in the hope
that the present military
struggle may be speedily
stopped and friendly relations
restored between the two
countries. Then China will
not be ungrateful for the
kindly intention of the
United States

United States Government and
his Excellency but duly.

A necessary communication
addressed to

H. Ex. Charles Denby

" " "

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DEC 28 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Copy to Miss Clara Barton
Ack.
DEC 28 1894

No 2034

Legation of the United States,

Peking, November 24, 1894.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
DEC 28 1894

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

To Miss Barton Dec. 29.
Acknd. Dec. 29.

Subject-

Red Cross Society at Tien-tsin.

Synopsis

Encloses Mr Read's dispatch giving an account of the organization of the Red Cross Society at Tien-tsin.

One enclosure.

No 2034

Legation of the United States

Peking, November 24, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

1/2034 I have the honor to enclose a copy of a despatch from Mr. Read, Consul at Tien-tsin, giving an account of the organization of a Red Cross Society.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Mr. Read to Mr. Denby.

No 99. November 22, 1894.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that a Red Cross Society has been organized to engage in the work of caring for the sick and wounded of the Chinese army.

This Society sprang into existence at the suggestion of Revd W. Owen of Peking, Dr. G.P. Smith of the London Mission calling a meeting here of Protestant Missionaries and a few others to consider the matter.

The Viceroy approves of the Society and promises to issue at any time, safe conducts. He advises that the Society confines its operations to Tientsin and Shan-hai Kuan, and promises to meet all expenses in feeding the sick, if the Society will render monthly accounts to him.

The Bylaws of the Society are as

as follows:-

Art. 1. All subscribers and volunteer workers shall be considered members of the Society.

Art. 2. All authority shall be vested in a General Committee.
Every regular physician who shall desire to join the Society shall become a member of the General Committee without special election.
The Society shall also choose one clerical Missionary, one trained nurse, one business man, and one Consular officer to serve upon the General Committee.
This Committee shall have power to enlarge its membership as may seem expedient.
The General Committee shall choose from their own members

members a permanent chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and two others to constitute an Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall be directly responsible for the work of the Society subject always to the authority of the General Committee.

Edmund Cousins Esqre has been chosen permanent chairman.

C. D. Tenney Esqre Secretary and Treasurer and Drs. Frazer, Smith, King, Benn and Atterbury members of the Executive Committee - the last two being in excess of the number called for by the plan of organization, but they were elected subject to the approval of the next General Meeting.

Orders have been given for the purchase of Drugs and Materials.

In response to enquiries it has been ascertained that the Tientsin Hospitals

Hospitals can provide for 205 soldiers apportioned as follows:-

Government Hospital	70
London Mission	60
Methodist Episcopal Mission	55
Dr King's Hospital	20

R.L. Thomson Esqre has offered one of the buildings in the Japanese Consulate Compound for General officers. This gentleman has already subscribed $500 to the Society:

Revd J.H. Pyke and Dr Atterbury are to visit Shan-hai Kuan and to report upon the advisability of opening work there.

I heard that a number of wounded soldiers from Ta-lien-wan bay are expected daily.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient-servant,

(sgd) Sheridan P. Read,

U.S. Consul.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
JAN 12 1895

No. 2025.

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JAN 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 25th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JAN 12 1895

Subject

The capture of Port Arthur.

Synopsis

Confirms telegram of 24th instant announcing the capture of Port Arthur

No ~~2025~~

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 25th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my cipher telegram of the 24th instant as follows:

"November 24th. Port Arthur

"taken 22nd"

Port Arthur is reported to have fallen into the hands of the Japanese, on the 22nd instant, after a battle of eighteen hours duration. No details of the

assault

assault and capture are as yet at Land.

I have the Honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. by Number and File.
JAN 12 1895

No. 2034 B

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Legation the United States,
Peking, November 26, 1894.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 12 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject-
Collisions at sea.

Synopsis
Transmits communication to
Yamen on the subject-

One enclosure.

No 2034 B

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 26, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that on the receipt of your despatch No 956 of the 8th ultimo I addressed to the Yamên a communication of which a copy is enclosed.

1/2034

I took the precaution, also, to see Sir Robert Hart, Inspector General of Customs, and to invoke his influence in the matter

matter.

In the condition in which China finds herself it is difficult to have matters appertaining to civil business taken up.

I will foward the Yamên's answer as soon as it is received.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

Mr. Denby to the Tsungli Yamên.

No. 51 November 16, 1894.

Enclosure one with despatch No 2034

Mr Bredy to the Tsungli Yamên

No 51

Peking November 16th 1894.

Your Highness and Your Excellencies

I have the honor to inform you that the Governments of Great Britain, France and the United States have agreed upon March 1st, 1895, as the date for putting into effect their respective laws for the prevention of collisions at sea.

These laws were enacted in accordance with the recommendations of the International Marine Conference held in Washington in 1889.

The Chinese Government has decided to promulgate their laws on that subject

subject to take effect March 1st, 1895.

I have the honor to Enclose herewith a copy of the proclamation of the President of the United States on this subject. The Honorable Secretary of State writes to me as follows:-

"It is sincerely hoped that the Government of China will adopt similar regulations to the End that identic rules may be put in force the same day by all the powers represented at the Conference"

The Secretary further states:-

"Pending further agreement between the interested powers concerning the regulations relative to lights on fishing vessels I observe that the Government of the United States considers

article X

Article X of the act approved March 3d, 1885, entitled "An act to adopt the revised international regulations for preventing collisions at Sea" as still in force"

A copy of Article X of the act approved March 3d, 1885 is herewith Enclosed.

In this connection I call your attention to the communication of the Prince and Minister to me bearing date January 15th, 1894. In that communication you informed me that you had addressed a communication to the Governor-General of the two Kwang Provinces and to several other high officials "as to the advisability of considering and Enforcing and putting into effect" certain propositions stated

by

by you relating to the subject now under consideration.

In the same communication this language is used:-

"It is right and proper, however, that China should consider this question and adopt rules governing navigation that may be carried into operation for a long period of time."

I have received no communication from you on this subject since January 15th, 1891.

Now that Great Britain, France and the United States have reached an accord on this important question it is certainly proper, and right and necessary that China should unite herself to those great Powers

by

by action similar to theirs.

I therefore urgently request you to adopt identic rules with those adopted by these powers and to put them in force March 1st, 1895.

Your people are largely interested in steamers which fly between your ports - You have extensive shipping interests all along your coasts.

The question of avoiding collisions is of the first importance - great good will result to China and to all maritime countries from the execution of the proposed rules.

I was induced to write to my Government in 1891, that I had faith in the progressiveness of China, and that in my opinion she would adopt the rules herewith Enclosed.

I

I hope that this opinion will be confirmed by your prompt action.

I have &c, &c, &c,

[sig] Charles Lindley

Dep

No. 2095 DIPLOMATIC BUREAU JAN 12

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
JAN 12 1895

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Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 27, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject-
The Chamber of Commerce
at Foochow thanks Consul
and Chargé d' affaires.

One enclosure.

No 2035

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 27, 1894.

To the Honorable,
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

1/2035

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter from the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce at Foochow complimentary to the United States Consul at that City and to the late Chargé d'Affaires.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure:

Mr. Weeks to Mr. Hixon.

No. 25, November 5, 1894.

Mr. Weeks to Mr. Hixon.

No. 25. Nov. 5th, 1894.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to address you, under instructions received from the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, to thank you for the zeal and courtesy which you have shown in bringing about the present arrangement for the transmission of Code Telegrams.

Will you kindly inform the Honourable Charles Denby, Jr., American Chargé d'Affaires at Peking that the Chamber is fully sensible of the efficacy of his action in the matter, and begs to tender to him an expression of its thanks.

I have the honor to be, Dear Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) H. B. Weeks,
Secretary.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Bureau of accounts will note.
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No 2036.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 27, 1894.

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Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

First Secretary went on leave November 27th.

No 2036.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 27, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that Mr. Charles Denby Jr. left Peking this day on leave as granted in Department's despatch of October 3rd, 1894.

I have the honor to be,

T.M.

Sir,

Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. approving.
aab
JAN 12 1895

No 2037.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 29, 1894.

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Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 12 1895

Returned Jany 14.

Subject
List of servants asked for

Synopsis.
List of Legation Servants and those of other Americans will be furnished.

f

No 2037

Legation of the United States

Peking, November 29, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the Tsungli Yamên has addressed to me a communication of which a translation is enclosed, wherein I am requested to furnish a list of Chinese who are in the employment of this Legation and of Americans at Peking.

1/2037

As

As compliance with this request is authorized by Sec. 51 of the Personal Instructions of 1885 the list asked for will be furnished.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

The Tsungli Yamen to Mr Denby

No 56 November 26, 1894.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

No 56. November 26, 1894.

Sir:

The Prince and Ministers have the honor to state that the Yamên has received a communication from the Gendemerie to effect that at present families are being registered in Peking by the Paochia, head men of the tithing. The palaces of the Princes and Dukes, as well as the official Yamêns — large or small — have all been instructed to report the persons connected with them. It seems proper that the Yamên should address the foreign Legations asking that a list of the Chinese in their employ as well as those connected with the foreign residents in Peking should also be furnished.

As in duty bound therefor, the Yamên addresses this communication

to

to the Minister of the United States and expressed the hope that he will, within a short time, forward a list of the Chinese in the employ of the U. S. Legation as well as those connected with other Americans in Peking, - giving their names, birthplace, occupation, age and term of service, so that the Yamên may transmit the same to the Gendarmerie to be placed on file.

A necessary communication addressed to His Excellency Charles Denby etc.

Sup
received to file

No 2038

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 12 1895

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Legation of the United States
Peking, November 29, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary State.

Subject
Confirms telegram 26th,
November 1894.

No 2038.

Legation of the United States
Peking, November 29, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm your telegram of the 26th instant as follows:

"Denby Peking

"Instructions sent as
"suggested in your
"telegram twenty third"

Gresham.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

No 2038.

Legation of the United States
Peking, November 29, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm your telegram of the 26th instant as follows:

"Denby Minister

"Instructions sent as
"suggested in your
"telegram twenty third"

Gresham.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

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REC'D.
DEC 27 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.
Cipher

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

From Peking

November 30, 1894.

Gresham

Received M.

Washington.

November thirtieth. Secret despatch. Japan refuses basis stated; doubts whether China is in earnest; if she really is, let her appoint minister plenipotentiary to treat; when plenipotentiaries meet, Japan will declare her conditions of peace. Yesterday China telegraphed Japan that Japan does not state her views as to basis of settlement. China hopes that Japan will indicate in a general way questions to be discussed; then China will name minister plenipotentiary.

Denby (Seal).

Dip

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

JAN 16 1895

Secretary of State. JAN 15 1895

No 2039 Answ Jan 7

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 30, 1894.

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Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Christian women's gift to the Empress.

Synopsis

The Chinese Christian women present a Bible to the Empress.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
JAN 12 1895

Mr. Landis

It may be most convenient to Ack. by Number and File. This Bible is the gift of Chinese subjects -

A. L.

Three enclosures.

No 2039

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 30, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the Protestant female Christian converts in China, together with the Protestant ladies — English and American — procured a copy of the New Testament in Chinese to be bound in silver for presentation to the Empress Dowager on the sixtieth anniversary of Her birthday.

The

The binding is very costly and elegant - The book was enclosed in a heavy silver casket - The decorative work consists of a representation of the bamboo elaborately reproduced. It is an exceedingly appropriate gift and a beautiful work of art.

For Britannic Majesty's Minister, Mr. O'Conor, and I were requested by the donors to transmit this present to Her Majesty the Empress Dowager. On the 10th instant, Mr. O'Conor and I sent to the Tsungli Yamên a letter, of which a copy is enclosed, together with a Chinese letter prepared by the representatives of the

1/2039

donors

2
2039

donors, a translation whereof is enclosed.

The 11th instant, the present was delivered to us by Rev. G. Owen and Rev. H. H. Lowry, residents of Peking, the former being an Englishman the latter an American. On the same day, it was sent, with our cards and an appropriate note, and another copy in Chinese of the letter of the donors, to the Tsungli Yamên, to be delivered to the Empress.

The receipt of this present was acknowledged in a

3
2039

communication of which a translation is enclosed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir.

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosures:

1. Mr. Denby and Mr. O'Conor to the Tsungli Yamên Nov. 10th 1894.

2. Translation of letter from the donors of the Testament.

3. Note from Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby Nov. 19th 1894.

Enclosure 1 in No 2039

Colonel Denby, United States
Minister, and Mr. O'Conor,
H.B.M's Minister,
to the Tsungli Yamên.

Peking, November 10-'94.

Your Imperial Highness
and Your Excellencies:

We have the honour
to inform Y.I.H. and Y.E. that
we have been requested by the
American and British Missionary
Societies in China to present
to Her Most Gracious Majesty,
the Empress Dowager, a copy
of the New Testament in Chinese
enclosed in a silver casket,
the offering of several thousand
Chinese female converts in
connection with the Protestant
missions throughout the country,
as a humble token of their
heartfelt loyalty on the occasion
of H.M's 60th birthday.

Accompanying

Accompanying the book is a Memorial from the subscribers which we have the honor to inclose.

The casket containing the Testament will be sent to the Yamën tomorrow, and we venture to beg that Y. D. T. and Y. Exys will convey these tokens of respect and admiration to their high destination.

(Sig'd) Charles Denby.

R. R. O' Conor.

(Cards enclosed with letter)

Enclosure 2 in No. 2039

To the Empress Dowager's Most Excellent Majesty,

Madam:—

Your Imperial Majesty, having, by Divine appointment, undertaken the Government of China in times of unparalleled internal and external trouble, and having by your great energy and wisdom restored profound peace throughout the whole Empire, and established friendly relations with all nations, has called forth the admiration not only of your own subjects, but those of other nations far and wide as well.

Among the many just laws which your Majesty has established not the least is that which commands the same protection to your Christian subjects as to those of all other religions; therefore, we, a few thousand Protestant Christian women throughout the various provinces of your Empire, though, mostly poor, cannot let the auspicious occasion of your Imperial Majesty's 60th. birth-day pass without

testifying

testifying our loyalty and admiration.
We do so by presenting your Majesty
with the New Testament, which is the
principal Classic of our Holy Religion,
namely the religion of Jesus Christ,
which is the only religion that practically
aims at the salvation of the whole world
from sin and suffering. The truths
in this volume have brought peace
of heart and purity of life with hope
of everlasting happiness to countless
millions. It has also given to Christian
nations the just laws and stable
government which are at the root of
their temporal prosperity and power.
On this account we hear it is a
custom in the West to present to
Empresses, Queens, and Princesses with
a copy of this book on happy occasions
in their lives.

We Christians in Your Empire
constantly and fervently pray that
your Highness and all the members of
the Imperial Household may also
get possession of this secret of true

happiness

happiness to the individual, and prosperity to the nation, so that China may not be behind any nation on the earth. We also fervently pray that your Imperial Majesty may long be spared to help by your wise counsel in the government of China, and when your work on this earth is finished, you may have a happy entrance into the glorious home prepared for all those who carry out the benificient will of Heaven.

We remain, with the profoundest veneration,

Madam,

Your Majesty's most faithful subjects,

The women of the Protestant Christian Church in China.

Enclosure 3 in No. 2039

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

Informal. November 19th 1894.

Your Excellency:

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's two notes of the 10th and 11th instant, wherein you stated that you had been requested by the American and British Missionary Societies in China, to present to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Empress Dowager a copy of the New Testament in Chinese, enclosed in a silver casket, the offering of several thousand Chinese female converts in connection with the Protestant Missions throughout the country, as a humble token of their heartfelt loyalty, on the occasion of Her Majesty's 60th birthday.

Accompanying

Accompanying the book is a memorial from the subscribers which was also enclosed.

The casket containing the book and memorial have been duly received, and, on the 12th instant were presented by the Prince and Ministers to Her Majesty.

In sending this reply we beg that Your Excellency will communicate this fact for the information of the donors.

[Cards of Prince Kung and Prince Ching and Ministers with compliments]

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
JAN 12 1895

No 2040

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 30, 1894.

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DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JAN 12 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Negotiations for peace.

Synopsis
Confirms to-day's telegram.

No 2040

Legation of the United States,
Peking, November 30, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of this date as follows:

Gresham Washington,
November 30th.

"Secret and confidential.
"Japan refuses basis
"stated. Doubt whether
"China is in earnest.
"If she really is let
her

"her appointed Minister
"Plenipotentiary to treat.
"When plenipotentiaries
"meet Japan will declare
"her conditions of peace.
"Yesterday China telegraphed
"Japan that Japan does
"not state her views as
"to basis of settlement.
"China hopes that Japan
"will indicate in a
"general way questions
"to be discussed. Then
"China will name Minister
"Plenipotentiary."

Denby.

By the directions of the Tsungli Yamên all telegrams that I send to Japan or to

you

you relating to negotiations for peace are charged by the Telegraph operator to the Yamên and not to me.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby